Sunday, January 18, 2026 No 18 ₹8

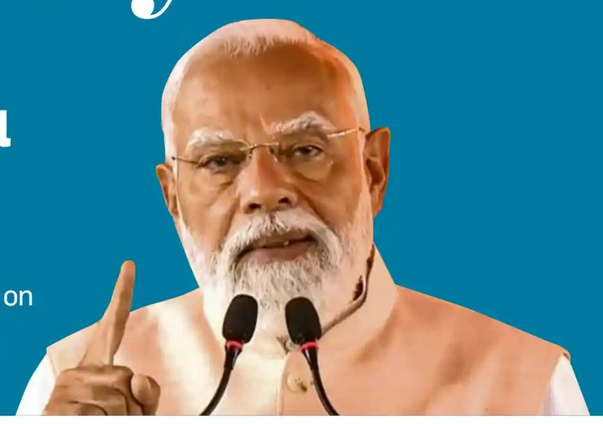
DH on Sunday

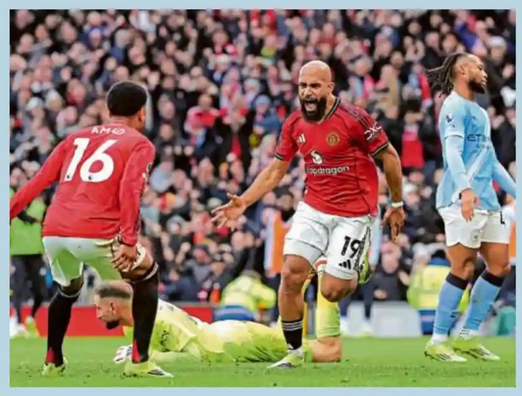
www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

PM raises Bengal poll heat with 'infiltrator' pitch

Modi says there will be crackdown on illegal immigrants once the BJP is voted to power





United paint Manchester red

Mbeumo, Dorgu score in 2-0 derby win

P10

MEET OUR PW SUPERSTARS

AIR 12
MOHIT PRAVIN AGRAWAL
IIT BOMBAY
JEE ADVANCED 2025

AIR 3
MAJID MUJAHID HUSAIN
IIT BOMBAY
JEE ADVANCED 2025

AIR 48
RISHABH VIVEK IYER
IIT BOMBAY
JEE ADVANCED 2025

AIR 9
SHIVEN VIKAS TOSHNIWAL
IIT BOMBAY
MARKS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
JEE MAIN 2025

AIR 87
RAGHAV GOYAL
AIIMS JODHPUR
NEET (UG) 2025

AIR 100
MUSKAN
MAMC
MARKS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
NEET (UG) 2025

AIR 12
SAURAV
IIT KHARAGPUR
JEE MAIN 2025

Appear for
PW SAT
PHYSICS WALLAH SCHOLARSHIP CUM ADMISSION TEST
Exam Dates: 5th to 20th January

GET UP TO 90%* SCHOLARSHIP
*T & C Apply.

For Classes 7th to 12th & Droppers

PW विद्यापीठ
IIT-JEE | NEET | FOUNDATION

THE TRUST OF YOUR PREPARATION

ADMISSIONS OPEN
2026-27
JEE | KCET | NEET | FOUNDATION

Expert Faculties
Classroom Learning
All India Test Series

BENGALURU VIDYAPEETH

VIDYAPEETH (OFFLINE CENTRES)
JP Nagar | Whitefield | Banaswadi | HSR-Haralur Road | Rajaji Nagar
Rajarajeshwari Nagar | Yelahanka
Mysore: 1st & 2nd Floor, Above Puma Showroom, Opp KFC, Udayaravi Road, Kuvempunagar

ENROLL NOW
For Classes 8th - 12th & Dropper

PATHSHALA (CENTRES)
Belagavi | Bidar | Dharwad | Hubli | Kalaburagi | Vijayapura

VP Residential Program: Bengaluru - JP Nagar

9513369983

Visit: www.pw.live
Scan the QR Code to Download PW App
Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play
*T&C APPLY

IndiGo hit with Rs 22-cr fine for Dec flight chaos

CEO 'cautioned'; airline to furnish Rs 50 cr bank bond

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Saturday imposed a penalty of Rs 22.20 crore on IndiGo and directed it to furnish a Rs 50 crore bank guarantee to ensure long-term systemic correction over the unprecedented flight chaos in December last year.

The move came after a probe found that over-optimisation of operations and inadequate regulatory preparedness by the airline led to the massive disruption that led to an outcry and calls for holding the airline accountable for the lapses.

The DGCA also "cautioned" IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers for "inadequate overall oversight" of flight operations and crisis management. It also warned the Senior Vice-President (Operations Control Centre) and asked the airline to relieve him and not assign any accountable position for failing to plan and timely implement the revised Flight Duty Time Limitation.

Warnings were also issued to other senior airline management officials for operational, supervisory, manpower planning, and roster management lapses.

IndiGo has also been asked to take appropriate action against any other personnel identified through its internal inquiry and submit a compliance report.

In a statement, IndiGo said it is committed to taking full cognisance of the orders and will, in a thoughtful and timely manner, take appropriate measures.

The probe was ordered following the cancellation of 2,507 flights and delays of 1,852 flights between December 3 and 5, as the airline could not assign adequate crew to operate services due to the new norms that allowed enhanced rest time for pilots.

At the same time, the DGCA also acknowledged the "swift" turnaround to restore its operations. The airline management "failed" to adequately identify planning deficiencies, maintain sufficient operational buffers, and effectively implement the revised FDTL norms that led to disruption in services, the probe found.

It said the "overriding focus" on maximising utilisation of crew, aircraft, and network resources significantly reduced roster buffer margins.

"Crew rosters were designed to maximise duty periods, with increased reliance on dead-heading, tail swaps, extended duty patterns, and minimal recovery margins. This approach compromised roster integrity and adversely impacted operational resilience," it said.

▸ IndiGo, Page 3B

Heaps of passengers' luggage piled up at the IGIA during IndiGo flight disruptions in New Delhi. PTI FILE PHOTO

WHAT DID DGCA PROBE ON INDIGO FIND?

- Over-optimisation of operations
- Inadequate regulatory preparedness
- Deficiencies in system software support
- Shortcomings in management structure and operational control
- Overriding focus on maximising utilisation of crew, aircraft, and network resources
- Crew rosters designed to maximise duty periods

Penalties: **Rs 22.20 cr**

One-time systemic penalties: **Rs 1.80 crore**

Continued non-compliance penalty: **Rs 20.40 crore**

SOURCE: DGCA

Chinnaswamy to see cricket action after govt nod

KSCA gets permission to host matches on certain conditions

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

The under-fire Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) on Saturday said it's been granted permission to host international and IPL matches at the Chinnaswamy Stadium by the Home Department, provided certain terms and conditions are met.

The development is good news for cricket fans who have been waiting to see some action at the venue that has fallen silent after the stampede on June 4 last year.

"We are pleased to inform you that the Home Department, Government of Karnataka, has granted permission to the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) to host international and IPL matches at the iconic M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru," said a statement from Vinay Mruthyunjaya, official spokesperson of the KSCA.

"The permission is subject to compliance with specific terms and conditions prescribed by the Government and the concerned authorities," the statement said, adding that the "KSCA is confident of fulfilling all the stipulated conditions". "The Association has already presented a detailed compliance roadmap before the Expert Review Committee and remains fully committed to implementing all safety, security, and crowd management measures in letter and spirit."

When contacted by *DH* on the conditions, Mruthyunjaya said the association intends to discuss the matter during a press conference next week.

"Whatever recommendations were made by the Justice Michael D'Cunha Commission and whatever the Home Department wanted, the new committee is working round the clock to address them," Mruthyunjaya said. "Our main agenda before we got elected was to get international cricket back at Chinnaswamy, and this is the first step towards achieving that," he said and thanked the state government, the Expert Review Committee, and concerned agencies".

The state government had barred the Chinnaswamy Stadium from hosting matches following the stampede that killed 11 fans during RCB's victory celebrations.

▸ Chinnaswamy, Page 3B

SAGA OF A STADIUM

- Stampede during RCB victory celebrations claims 11 lives on June 4, 2025
- Govt forms Justice Michael D'Cunha Commission to investigate the incident, which recommends several structural changes
- Govt forms an Expert Review Committee to study the changes being undertaken by the KSCA
- Reports emerge that RCB is looking at playing their home games at DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai and Raipur

> We are pleased to inform you that the Home Department, Government of Karnataka, has granted permission to the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) to host international and IPL matches at the iconic M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.
>
> **Vinay Mruthyunjaya,** official spokesperson, KSCA

CM to cops: Lack of vigilance caused avoidable incidents

BENGALURU, DHNS: "If the Maharashtra police can come to Bengaluru and bust drug rackets, why can't the Karnataka police?" Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday openly expressed his displeasure over the performance of the police.

Siddaramaiah

Speaking after inaugurating the annual conference of police officers at the DG & IGP Head Office on Saturday, the CM also observed that incidents such as ATM robbery, banner-related dispute in Ballari and the stampede at Chinnaswamy Stadium could have been prevented if the police had exercised better vigilance and taken timely safety measures.

Siddaramaiah stressed that the primary responsibility of the police is not only to investigate crimes after they occur but also to prevent them. He said effective monitoring and coordination among officers could significantly reduce such incidents. Referring to recent drug seizures by the Maharashtra police in Bengaluru, the CM asked why the Karnataka police were unable to achieve similar results. He said action has been ordered against officials who failed to detect and prevent drug-related offences.

▸ CM, Page 3B

HM: Don't let B'luru become cybercrime hub

Highlighting Bengaluru's global profile, Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Saturday that the city is under international scrutiny and should not be allowed to turn into a hub for cybercrime.

Details on Page 3

PM raises Bengal poll heat with 'infiltrator' pitch

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

There will be a crackdown on illegal immigrants entering West Bengal from across the India-Bangladesh border once the BJP is voted to power in the state, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, accusing the ruling Trinamool Congress of facilitating "infiltrators" to settle down in the state and thus of altering the demography.

Modi was in the state to unveil rail and road projects worth Rs 3,250 crore, mostly in the BJP stronghold of North Bengal.

The PM flagged off the country's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Express train at Malda. The train will operate between Howrah in West Bengal and Kamakhya in Assam, another poll-bound state.

Addressing a rally in Malda, his first in West Bengal this year, Modi sent out the message that illegal immigration and the TMC government's alleged support for it would be the main poll plank of the BJP.

"Even the developed nations are deporting illegal migrants. West Bengal, too, must be freed of illegal migrants. But the TMC leaders have been settling the illegal migrants in West Bengal and turning them into voters for their own vested political interests," he said.

▸ Modi, Page 3B

PM Narendra Modi after flagging off the country's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Express, in Malda, West Bengal. PTI

Unrest in Murshidabad

Violent protests in West Bengal's Murshidabad over the death of a migrant worker in Jharkhand triggered a slugfest between the ruling TMC and the BJP on Saturday, as police baton-charged protesters.

Details on Page 7

Internal quota Bill: Guv asks about Parl nod for SC reservation hike

BENGALURU, DHNS: Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has asked the state government to clarify if the Bill providing internal reservation among Scheduled Castes (SC) can be cleared without Parliament first approving the increase in their quota from 15% to 17% in Karnataka.

This is a crucial clarification that Gehlot has sought from the government, according to a communication from Lok Bhavan to the department of parliamentary affairs & legislature, which *DH* has seen.

Thaawarchand Gehlot

The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, which Gehlot has returned to the government, divides the 17% SC reservation as per a 6-6-5 formula.

The SC/ST quota in the state was hiked in 2022 by the then BJP government. The SC reservation went up from 15% to 17% and the ST quota from 3% to 7%. This took the total quantum of reservations to 56%, breaching the 50% cap fixed by the Supreme Court.

There have been calls to bring this under Schedule 9 of the Constitution, which will require a decision in Parliament.

On December 2, the high court barred the government from making fresh recruitment as per the 56% quota.

Gehlot said he had received "detailed objections" to the internal quota Bill from outfits representing Banjara, Bhovi, Korcha and Korma communities.

According to Gehlot, these petitioners have informed him that the government has not "assessed the historical backwardness of each caste among the 101 [SC] castes and requested me to reject the said Bill, until unless Parliament approved the increase of reservation from 15% to 17%".

Gehlot stated the issues raised by the petitioners "are sensitive in nature" and they need to be addressed.

The chief minister is likely to convene a meeting with ministers and officials to discuss the matter.

DESERT WARRIOR IN DELHI

An official of the Indian Army's Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC) handles a bactrian camel during the Republic Day Parade rehearsal in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

Ballari rally: BJP demands Cong MLA's arrest

BALLARI, DHNS: BJP leaders on Saturday reiterated their demand for immediate arrest of Bellary City MLA Nara Bharath Reddy and his close aides, alleging their direct involvement in the murder of a Congress worker and in instigating the violent clashes that erupted in Ballari on January 1. They also demanded that the case be handed over either to the CBI or investigated by a sitting high court judge to ensure a fair probe.

Addressing a protest rally at the APMC grounds, BJP leaders warned that Ballari City Deputy Superintendent of Police Nanda Reddy and Assistant SP Ravi Kumar would be held accountable once the BJP returns to power in 2028.

Details on Page 4

India, B'desh captains skip handshake

BULAWAYO (ZIMBABWE), PTI: The strained bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh spilled onto the cricket field as captains of the two teams abstained from making customary handshake ahead of their U-19 World Cup Group A match here on Saturday, though BCB later called it "unintentional and momentary lapse" by its team's skipper.

After a delayed start owing to rain, India skipper Ayush Mhatre and Bangladesh vice-captain Zawad Abrar stood at the toss but there was no exchange of cordiality between them before or after the spin of the coin.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) said in a statement later in the day that "the absence of a handshake with the opposition captain was completely unintentional and resulted from a momentary lapse in concentration." "There was no intent whatsoever to show discourtesy or disregard towards the opposition," the BCB said in the statement issued in Dhaka.

Details on Page 10

Several Indians return from violence-hit Iran

NEW DELHI, PTI: Several Indians, including students, have arrived in New Delhi in commercial flights from Iran amid widespread protests in the Islamic nation and Tehran's crackdown that has so far killed more than 2,500 people.

The flights arrived at the Delhi airport late on Friday night. It was not immediately known how many Indians had arrived in these commercial flights. There are approximately 9,000 Indian nationals living in Iran.

Details on Page 7

Rs 1.53 lakh-crore investments in K'taka in 11 months

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka has attracted new investments worth Rs 1.53 lakh crore in 11 months after the Global Investors Meet (GIM) held in February last year, Industries Minister MB Patil said on Saturday.

The new investments include projects by tech giant Google and billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL).

"The state's efforts to attract investments are continuous in nature and not limited to the GIM alone," Patil said before leaving for Davos to lead a high-level delegation at the World Economic Forum.

"Of the new investments attracted, Rs 66,293 crore pertains to manufacturing and industrial sector, Rs 20,913 crore to wind and solar power generation, Rs 12,500 crore to establishment of Global Capability Centres (GCC) and Rs 6,350 crore to setting up of data centres," Patil said.

Google will invest Rs 2,500 crore in Bengaluru, while Japanese IT services firm NTT will pump Rs 4,000 crore to establish data centres at Devanahalli.

RCPL will set up a Rs 1,622-crore beverage manufacturing facility in Vijayapura for production and bottling of Campa products.

▸ investments, Page 3B

FRESH FUNDING

Sectorwise

- Manufacturing & industrial: **Rs 66,293 cr**
- Wind & solar power: **Rs 20,913 cr**
- GCCs: **12,500 cr**
- Data centres: **Rs 6,350 cr**

Companywise

- **NTT:** Rs 4,000 cr for data centres at Devanahalli
- **AT&S:** Rs 2,850 cr for electronic components manufacturing in Nanjangud
- **Google:** Rs 2,500 cr in Bengaluru
- **RCPL:** Rs 1,622 cr for beverage manufacturing facility in Vijayapura
- **Toyota Industries Engine Pvt Ltd:** Rs 1,330 cr to manufacture gasoline and hybrid engine plant at Jigani facility
- **Deeptech firm QpiAI:** Rs 1,136 cr to establish Quantum Centre of Excellence

DKS cancels Davos tour

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar has cancelled his visit to the World Economic Forum at Davos due to "official engagements". His office said he has meetings with Congress functionaries on Assam elections and he also has to attend the special session of the legislature.

CUSTOMER IS KING

Consumers win 59% cases disposed of at forum

DH SPECIAL

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a relief for consumers, close to 96% of the grievances registered with the Karnataka State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission have been addressed and the complaints disposed of, with 59% of the disposed grievances going in favour of consumers, according to data accessed by *DH*.

From faulty products to delay in providing services, the commission receives complaints related to every sector associated with consumers.

The commission, which operates at district and state levels, was established in 1989 to ensure that consumers' rights are protected.

According to the data, of the 2.63 lakh complaints received by the commission till November 2025, as many as 2.54 cases were disposed of. Among these, 1.5 lakh complaints were ruled in favour of consumers.

"From a fault in a small kitchen product to delay in getting possession of a flat worth more than a crore rupees, we get all kinds of complaints," a senior officer in the commission said.

The data showed that the majority of the cases were related to insurance policies, housing projects and banking.

Sources said that in Bengaluru, at least 20% of the complaints were related to real estate projects.

"In many cases insurance companies do not disclose the complete details right at the beginning and consumers who pay premium will be at loss at the end. Also, people paying for real estate also struggle to get possession of the properties they have paid for," the sources said.

Delay in providing banking services, unnecessary fines and such other cases are also reported widely, they added.

The commission follows the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 to review the cases. While the number of cases in favour of consumers is more than 50%, advocates who work on consumer court cases opined that public should me more aware of the rights they have.

"We have seen many of them showing interest in the beginning and after that failing to pursue the case. We urge more people to come forward to file their grievances. If the documents and evidence is strong, they can definitely win," a city-based advocate said.

She suggested that people keep their invoices or bills for the product or service, the warranty or guarantee card and videos or photos of the defect as evidence.

A resident of Banaswadi who had filed a complaint with the commission said that he was served justice after four years. "My site was encroached upon and I was struggling to reclaim it. However, the consumer court settled the matter in four years. Though the struggle was long, I am happy that justice was served," he said.

In numbers (till Nov 2025)

Total complaints received	Total complaints disposed of
2.63 lakh	2.54 lakh

Plaints disposed of in favour of consumers: 1.5 lakh

Top categories: Insurance 49,224 | Banking 33,190 | Housing 28,820

Bengaluru Sunday, January 18, 2026 Pages 24 Vol 79 No 18 ₹8

DH on Sunday

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Trump vows tariffs on 8 EU nations over Greenland

P8

Stories for a new world

Renowned author Amitav Ghosh discusses how his fiction explores climate change through the lens of myth and memory

Big Picture

Page12

Art & Pursuits
Page16

Whiskered signatures

Cats pad and preen across art in an ongoing exhibition in Bengaluru, powered by B N Goswamy's scholarship

Travel
Page15

Melnik mystique

Sand formations rising like pyramids in Bulgaria's Unesco-listed town are nature's answers to Egypt's monuments

Food & Drink
Page14

Czech this out

The chimney cake, Prague's popular pastry, comes with a sugar coating and fillings like ice cream and fruit

Quickly

Gaza Board: Israel objects to US names

Israel's government is objecting to the White House announcement of leaders who will play a role in overseeing next steps in the Gaza Strip. The rare criticism from Israel of its close ally in Washington says the Gaza executive committee "was not co-ordinated with Israel and is contrary to its policy," without details.
Details on Page 8

B'luru firm in the dock over tree cutting

The forest cell of the Greater Bengaluru Authority has filed a complaint alleging that the Embassy East Business Park Private Limited had cut down 101 trees without the permission from the officials. Though the tree felling incident took place in December, it came to light only recently.
Details on Page 3

3 youths run over by lorry near B'luru

In a tragic road accident, three teenagers, including two college students, lost their lives after their scooter jumped a median and was run over by a speeding lorry on the Channahalli-Bettakote road on Saturday. The deceased have been identified as Manikanta (20), who was riding the scooter, and pillion riders Srinivas (19) and Touseef (19). Preliminary investigations suggest that Manikanta was speeding and riding recklessly. "While negotiating a curve, the rider lost control of the vehicle," police said.
Details on Page 3

TN: AIADMK promises free bus travel

The AIADMK on Saturday announced the first set of promises for the 2026 TN Assembly poll.
It includes extending free travel to men in city buses while continuing the existing free bus travel scheme for women. Party general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami made the announcement.
Details on Page 7

Kannada-medium schools on the edge in border states

Kannada-medium schools outside Karnataka are struggling amid unfavourable language policies and poor funding, putting the future of Kannada in these regions at risk

NAINA J A, VITTAL SHASTRI & PAVAN KUMAR H
KASARAGOD (KERALA)/ SOLAPUR (MAHARASHTRA) / HUBBALLI, DHNS

Over 1 lakh students in six states bordering Karnataka are enroled in Kannada-medium schools. In pic, students participate in an activity at the Zilla Parishad Kannada Medium School in Maindargi, a border village in Akkalkot taluk, Maharashtra. DH PHOTO/VITTAL SHASTRI

Once bustling with activity, classrooms in a Kannada-medium government school in Kerala's Kasaragod have fallen unusually quiet over the past fortnight, reflecting the mood across Kannada-medium schools in the district. While most students remain largely unaware of developments beyond the school's walls, a sense of unease has begun to take hold among teachers and senior students.

"Everyone in our school says Malayalam will be made compulsory. If that happens, I may have to stop learning Kannada as my first language and start learning Malayalam from scratch," says Priya (name changed), a Class 5 student.

Despite clarifications from the Kerala government regarding the proposed Malayalam Language Bill, 2025, which seeks to make Malayalam the compulsory first language from Classes 1 to 10 in all government and aided schools across the state, including Kannada-medium schools in border districts such as Kasaragod, doubts persist among students, teachers and the Kannada-speaking community. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has clarified that the proposed Bill does not impose Malayalam, allows non-Malayalam students to choose other languages under the national curriculum, and exempts them from Malayalam exams at higher levels. Yet Kannadigas remain unconvinced that linguistic minorities will be unaffected by the proposed changes. For Akshatha (name changed), a Class 10 student at an aided school in Kasaragod district, Kannada is not merely a subject in her timetable.

"Kannada is the language through which I think and express myself. Forcing another language on us will only create stress. There is a stark difference between learning by choice and learning under compulsion," she says.

Apprehensions of Priya and Akshatha are rooted in their past experiences. According to reports, a few years ago, Kerala government appointed Malayalam-speaking teachers to Kannada-medium schools in Adoor, Bekur, Mangalpady and Paivalike in Kasaragod district. The government revoked the appointments and appointed Kannada-speaking teachers only after stiff resistance from Kannadiga parents, students and teachers.

According to retired headmaster Shankar Saradka many parents believe their children cannot survive in Kerala without Malayalam and therefore prefer enroling them in Malayalam-medium schools instead of Kannada-medium ones, which they themselves had attended. As a result, the enrolment in Kannada-medium schools has declined drastically over the years.

Teachers note that Malayalam is being taught to interested students in lower primary schools through teachers appointed using the Zilla Panchayat fund.

Articles 29, 30 and 350A of the Constitution guarantee over one lakh students studying in Kannada-medium schools in six neighbouring states of Karnataka the right to education in their mother tongue. Yet, experts argue that these protections largely remain on paper. Kerala is not alone, even in states such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra and Goa, Kannada-medium education has been affected in various ways.

Critics note that successive governments in Karnataka have made limited efforts to instil a sense of belonging among Gadinadu Kannadigas (border area Kannadigas) and Horanadu Kannadigas (a Kannada-origin population settled outside the state), and provide them with opportunities that could inspire future generations to sustain Kannada not merely as a medium of instruction, but as a source of pride.

Poor infrastructure in Kannada-medium schools, a shortage of qualified teachers, unfavourable language policies and above all, fear of limited educational and career prospects after Class 10 have prompted parents to avoid enroling their children in Kannada-medium schools outside Karnataka.

▸ Kannada schools, Page 2

Where policy falls short: Labour in the gig economy

Policy interventions are needed to ensure income security and stable wages for gig workers, who are often treated as peripheral intermediaries rather than protected labour

KAIBALYAPATI MISHRA

The SUNDAY STORY

Contemporary labour policy interventions, including the new labour codes, irrespective of their merits, reaffirm the foundational tenets of modern labour economics that organisations and labour occupy distinct institutional locations with clearly defined roles, rights and responsibilities towards one another. However, when applied to gig workers, this framework reveals a fundamental misfit. Repeated calls to treat gig workers with dignity directly challenge the prevailing economic understanding of the gig economy in the country. Applying conventional economic frameworks that underpin existing labour policy to gig work is, in itself, poor economics.

The strike by gig workers in December is a manifestation of this mismatch. While the labour codes' formal recognition of gig and platform workers, along with the mandate for limited social security provisions, represents a belated yet welcome step, it remains insufficient.

Further, some industry and media reports following the New Year strike suggest that the protests had limited operational impact, as platforms relied on incentives and assurances to keep workers logged in. This, in turn, raises a deeper question: can wages or incentives truly function as a market-clearing mechanism at a time when the safety and security of labourers are fundamentally at stake?

In India, gig work is often portrayed as supplementary employment. In pic, a gig worker at work in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

The standard economic logic guiding labour policymaking cannot be seamlessly applied to gig work, and attempts to do so have already produced visible and disruptive consequences.

We deliberately set aside questions of implementation and detailed policy critique, which deserve independent and focused attention.

In a labour-surplus economy like India, the much-vaunted flexibility of gig work operates asymmetrically: while workers formally retain the option to log in or out, employers effectively gain the ability to bypass the costs and responsibilities associated with regular employment.

The conventional employer–employee–contract framework does not adequately capture the dynamics of gig work.

▸ Gig economy, Page 2

DH SPECIAL

Eggs and milk power Kalyana Karnataka's nutrition turnaround

VITTAL SHASTRI

Severely malnourished children in KK region

2022-23	11,750
2023-24	6,149
2024-25	4,968
2025-26	2,582

The seven districts of Kalyana Karnataka have seen a remarkable decline in severe malnutrition among children over the last four years, with numbers dropping by nearly 80% — from 11,750 in 2022-23 to 2,582 in 2025-26.

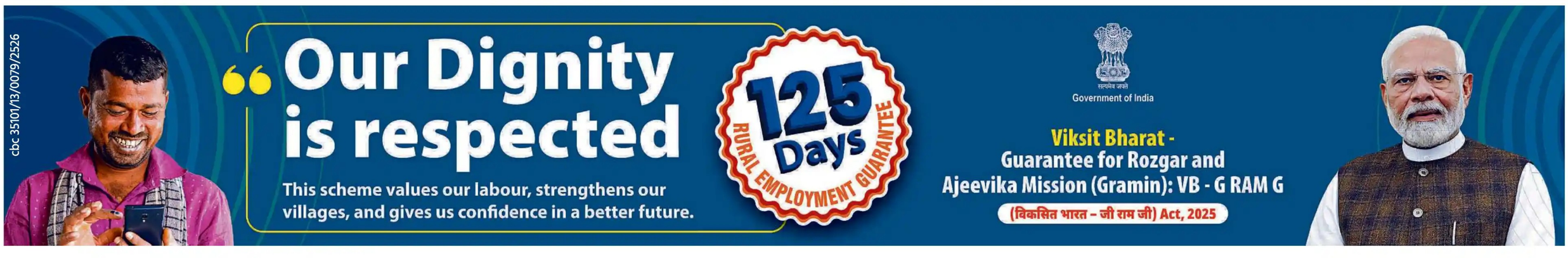
Officials attribute the improvement to the supply of highly nutritious foods, including eggs, milk and moringa powder, under various government schemes, along with consistent awareness campaigns targeting parents.

A decade ago, districts like Raichur, Ballari, Koppal and Kalaburagi made headlines for high child malnutrition, driven by acute poverty, child marriage and poor dietary practices. Children of daily wage earners and vulnerable communities were the worst affected. Many were admitted to Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) for continuous medical treatment and nutritional support.

The Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), under the National Health Mission, has played a crucial role in this turnaround. The scheme focuses on early identification and treatment of birth defects, deficiencies, diseases, developmental delays and disabilities, including malnutrition and congenital disorders. "The government's POSHAN Abhiyaan, which targets key nutrition parameters for children and women, has helped our efforts to make the district malnutrition-free," said Naveen Kumar, Deputy Director of Raichur Women and Child Development Department.

Dr Shankrappa Mailare, Kalaburagi Divisional Joint Director of Health and Family Welfare, said specialised doctors and staff nurses have been deployed under RBSK scheme in each taluk based on population. "They conduct regular inspections at schools and anganwadis, guide workers and parents on nutrition, and ensure severely malnourished children are admitted to NRCs," he said.

Health activist Dr Gopal Dabade said malnutrition in North Karnataka has declined over the past decade. "Kwashiorkor, a severe protein-deficiency malnutrition, was common decades ago. Now children's health has improved," he said.


cbc 35101/13/0079/2526
"Our Dignity is respected
This scheme values our labour, strengthens our villages, and gives us confidence in a better future.
125 Days
RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE
Government of India
Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB - G RAM G
(विकसित भारत – जी राम जी) Act, 2025

Structured approach can fill gaps

Kannada schools from Page 1

Shankar Halagatti, general secretary of Karnatak Vidyavardhaka Sangha in Dharwad, says, "Mother-tongue education is the bridge connecting Kannada-origin communities outside the state to Karnataka's culture. If even one generation is deprived of education in Kannada, the language could vanish from these regions forever."

Data from the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority (KBADA) shows that as of December 2025, there are 654 government and aided Kannada-medium schools across six neighbouring states with around 1.10 lakh students studying in them. Officials and activists in these border regions say that the number of Kannada-medium schools has declined sharply over the past two to three decades. Meanwhile, the Karnataka government does not have authentic records on how many Kannada-medium schools have closed outside Karnataka since the linguistic reorganisation of states in 1956.

> "I have received several requests to upgrade the infrastructure of Kannada-medium schools outside Karnataka, many of which lack even basic facilities. Successive governments have neglected not only these schools but also the aspirations of Kannadigas in other states. With KBADA now under the Planning Commission, I will urge Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to allocate additional funds to improve their condition
>
> **H K PATIL**
> Karnataka's Border In-charge Minister

Two language policy

In Tamil Nadu, Hosur district now has five Kannada-medium primary schools. Sanjeev M, former member of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat (Tamil Nadu unit), recalls that six decades ago, Hosur had at least 24 primary and high schools.

"Tamilians are very proud of their language, which is understandable. But over the years, Tamil Nadu's two-language policy has had an impact on Kannada-medium schools. As enrolment declined, several schools were forced to close, and today only a few remain."

Maharashtra has the highest number of Kannada-medium schools outside Karnataka, with 377 schools educating around 44,860 students. In 2024, a controversy arose after Marathi-speaking teachers were appointed to Kannada-medium schools in Solapur district.

Belagavi-based activist Ashok Chandargi calls it a deliberate attempt to weaken Kannada education. "The government is failing to appoint Kannada teachers and denying adequate funds to improve infrastructure and supply study materials. This is pushing students towards Marathi or English-medium schools," he says.

In Akkalkot taluk of Solapur, Kannada schools are witnessing a concerning trend: parents send girls to Kannada schools but boys to English or Marathi schools for a "better future."

Gurubasappa Hasaramani, a teacher at Gandhi Nagar Kannada Primary School in Dudhani village in Solapur district, says teachers visit houses for nearly two months before the academic year to persuade Kannadiga parents to enrol their children in Kannada schools. "We distribute school bags, notebooks and other materials, often using our own salaries. Despite this, enrolment has dropped from 120 students a decade ago to just 53 this year."

"Girls are often sent to Kannada schools so that they can 'adjust' in their in-law's homes in Karnataka," he says.

Another hurdle is that competitive examinations for higher education and employment are conducted in the host state's language, even for positions in Kannada-medium schools. For instance, in Maharashtra, aspiring teachers must clear the Maharashtra Teachers Eligibility Test (MahaTET), which is conducted only in Marathi. "Teachers who wish to serve in Kannada-medium schools struggle with Marathi question papers," says Mahesh Gayakwad, head of the Dudhani cluster, which comprises 18 Kannada-medium schools.

"Despite repeated appeals to conduct the test in Kannada for core subjects like mathematics, social studies and science, the Maharashtra government has taken no action," he explains.

He adds that this policy has had a severe impact, with student strength halving over the past decade. Interestingly, while Kannada-medium schools are declining in Maharashtra, Marathi-medium schools in Belagavi and Khanapur are seeing rising enrolment.

"There are 38 villages in Karnataka without a single Kannada-medium school but with Marathi-medium schools. If we cannot protect Kannada within our own borders, how can it be protected outside?" Chandargi points out.

"The Maharashtra government is expanding its educational footprint in Karnataka, offering Marathi-medium students benefits such as insurance and guaranteed jobs in Maharashtra. On the other hand, what (support) are we providing for our Horanadu Kannada-medium students?" he asks.

Certification issue

Karnataka introduced the Horanadu Kannadiga Certificate (HKC), granting reservations in education and priority in government jobs to students who studied for at least 10 years in Kannada-medium schools outside the state. This was to encourage Kannada-medium education outside the state. However, several students, teachers and activists blame the government for failing to implement these provisions effectively. They say a majority of the beneficiaries are denied seats due to mismatch in documents provided by their home state. For instance, a community listed as ST/SC in Karnataka may not have the same status in other states.

Gurubasavaraj G, a Kannada-medium school teacher in Adoni, Andhra Pradesh, explains that students can study in Kannada medium only up to SSLC. Kannada is not offered as an optional language in colleges in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. "Since Kannada-medium students are not proficient in Telugu, they are often forced to apply to colleges in Karnataka, where the competition is intense and securing a seat is nearly impossible without the HKC."

Telangana Gadinadu Kannada Sangha vice-president Amar Dixit, says over 12,000 students study in Kannada-medium schools across five districts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. He says that 21 of the 33 Kannada-medium schools in Narayanpet district have been converted to Telugu medium in recent years.

Dixit criticises the Karnataka government for not implementing KBADA's recommendations to prioritise these students. "Repeated appeals to successive chief ministers have gone unheard. The authority is powerless due to inadequate funding," he says.

KBADA's former commissioner C Somashekar acknowledges that Karnataka has not done enough to protect the interests of Horanadu Kannadigas. "Without a secured future, we cannot expect Horanadu Kannadigas to continue studying in Kannada. The basic request of these students is the opportunity to continue their studies in Kannada and access jobs either in their home states or in Karnataka."

Somashekar also points out that except in Kerala, Kannada-medium schools outside Karnataka are in poor condition. They lack basic facilities such as classrooms, toilets, drinking water and required number of Kannada teachers. "KBADA made some efforts to provide smart classrooms and undertook some renovation work. But with limited funding, it was not possible to improve all the schools," he says.

KBADA's annual allocation of around Rs 14–15 crore in the last decade (except for one year where Rs 80 crore was allocated) leaves barely Rs 6–8 crore for new development works. "Nearly 60% is spent on staff salaries and pensions. KBADA has to cater to educational, cultural and social needs of bordering taluks in Karnataka and six neighbouring states using the remaining amount," says Prakash Mattihalli, Secretary of KBADA.

Somashekar emphasises that to address the challenges faced by Horanadu Kannadigas, the state should first conduct a socio-economic and educational survey of Kannada communities in these states to identify their pressing needs. "Based on the findings, we can formulate effective policies," he adds, noting that his preliminary study indicates a one-time allocation of Rs 300 crore to KBADA to bridge the existing gaps.

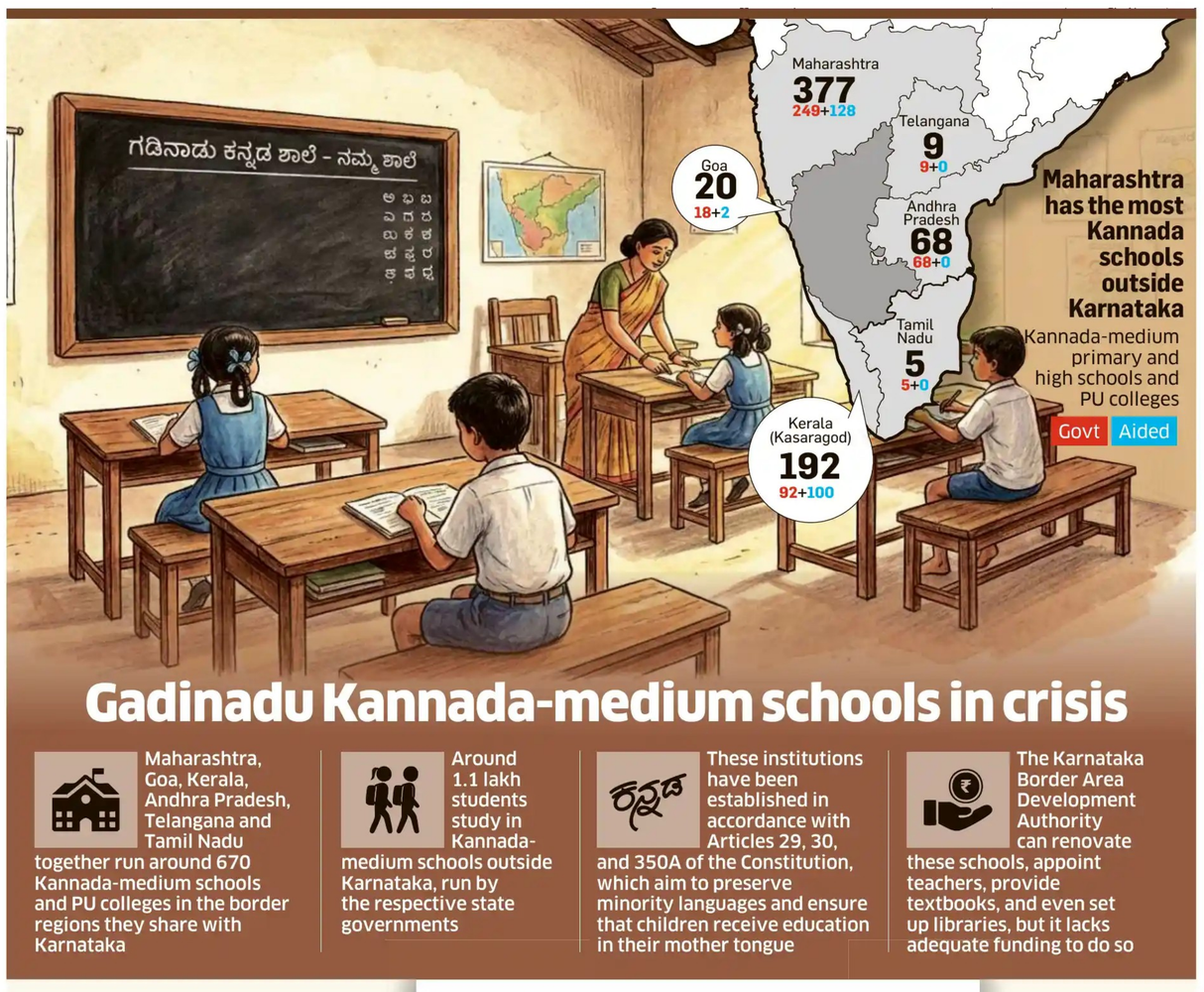
Addressing the educational and career needs of Gadinadu Kannadigas requires a combination of thorough research, targeted policymaking, coordinated advocacy with neighbouring states and adequate funding. A structured approach, guided by reliable data, can help bridge socio-economic and educational gaps and ensure more equitable development for these communities.

Kasaragod's Kannada identity

Kasaragod, though administratively part of Kerala, shares far deeper social, cultural and linguistic ties with Karnataka.

Pradeep Kumar, general secretary of the Kerala state Kannada-medium Teachers' Organisation, warns that the Malayalam Language Bill also risks eroding the region's linguistic and cultural diversity. Local place names have already been altered: "Manjeshwara" is now "Manjeshwaram," "Adka" has become "Adkam," "Nellikunje" to "Nellikunnu," and "Pilikunje" to "Pilikunnu."

"Kannadigas are not against Malayalam being made mandatory across Kerala, just as Kannada is compulsory in Karnataka. But Kasaragod must be exempted from this mandate," says Jayaprakash Narayana, president of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat (Gadinadu–Kerala unit).



Gadinadu Kannada-medium schools in crisis

Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu together run around 670 Kannada-medium schools and PU colleges in the border regions they share with Karnataka

Around 1.1 lakh students study in Kannada-medium schools outside Karnataka, run by the respective state governments

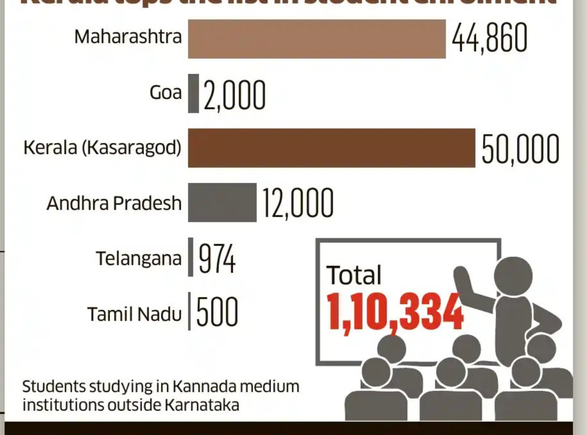
These institutions have been established in accordance with Articles 29, 30, and 350A of the Constitution, which aim to preserve minority languages and ensure that children receive education in their mother tongue

The Karnataka Border Area Development Authority can renovate these schools, appoint teachers, provide textbooks, and even set up libraries, but it lacks adequate funding to do so

Why Gadinadu Kannada schools fail to attract students

- Students who study up to Class 10 in these schools often face difficulties securing government jobs in their home state or in Karnataka due to language and eligibility barriers
- They face barriers in availing the 5% reservation for Kannadigas residing outside Karnataka, in admissions to higher education and professional courses in Karnataka
- Many students entering colleges in Karnataka after Class 10 are deprived of scholarships, hostel facilities and free bus pass facilities due to caste or income certificate format issues
- Intermittent changes in language policies by state governments create uncertainty, leading many students to view English-medium schools as a safer choice
- Many schools struggle with inadequate infrastructure, unavailability of Kannada textbooks and a shortage of teachers
- Many taluks bordering Karnataka do not have official 'Gadinadu' status due to which Kannada school students struggle to get facilities meant for Gadinadu students
- Many schools are under threat of closure due to poor student enrolment

Kerala tops the list in student enrolment



Students studying in Kannada medium institutions outside Karnataka

340 more Kannada teachers needed

156 Maharashtra	17 Goa	11 Telangana	– Tamil Nadu
	147 Andhra Pradesh	9 Kerala (Kasargodu)	

Policy disputes shaking Gadinadu schools

MALAYALAM LANGUAGE BILL 2025: The Kerala government's bill, currently awaiting the governor's assent, mandates Malayalam as the first language in all government and aided schools across the state, including Kannada-medium schools in border districts

TEACHER APPOINTMENTS: In 2024, the Maharashtra government began appointing Marathi teachers in Kannada-medium schools in areas bordering Karnataka, echoing a similar controversy that arose in Kerala's Kasaragod district in 2018

LANGUAGE POLICY: In 2020, the Andhra Pradesh government decided to convert all state board schools, including Kannada-medium schools, into English-medium institutions, with Kannada taught only as a subject

GADINADU KANNADIGA
Gadinadu Kannadiga refers to a person whose mother tongue is Kannada, Tulu, Kodava, or Beary, and who resides in Kannada-speaking areas of South Solapur, Akkalkot, Jath, or Gadhinglaj taluks in Maharashtra; or in Kasaragod, Hosadurga, or Manjeshwara taluks of Kerala

HORANADU KANNADIGA
Horanaadu Kannadiga refers to a person who has a parent whose mother tongue is Kannada or Tulu or Kodava or Beary and either of the parents was domiciled in the state of Karnataka and who is residing outside the state of Karnataka

Sources: Karnataka Border Area Development Authority, Lawbhoomi.com, media reports

COMPILED BY DIVYASHRI MUDAKAVI DH GRAPHIC: RAMU MASTAIAH

'States should not engage in conflicts over language'

In an interview with *DH*'s **Naina J A**, Kannada Development Authority (KDA) Chairperson **Purushothama Bilimale** discusses the challenges faced by Kannada-medium schools in border areas.

How do you view the implications of the Malayalam Language Bill 2025, passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly?
As per the Constitution, all states have the right to protect their respective languages. Accordingly, Karnataka enacted the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022, which seeks to promote Kannada. However, Clause 6 of Chapter 3 of the Malayalam Language Bill 2025, makes Malayalam compulsory as first language in all government and aided schools from Classes 1 to 10. The Kerala government should amend this clause to clearly state that it does not apply to linguistic minorities in the state.

What has the KDA done in this regard?
I have written to the President of India urging the invocation of constitutional provisions under Article 350(B) for the appointment of a Special Officer. The proposed officer's role would be to visit the concerned areas, assess issues relating to safeguards for linguistic minorities and report to the President.

What are your suggestions to resolve the issue?
My concern is that states should not engage in conflicts over language. When states clash over linguistic issues, it weakens India as a whole. Instead, Karnataka and Kerala should constitute a committee of linguists and educationists to arrive at a long-term solution, as there is still a long way to go.

What are your views on the appointment of Marathi- or Malayalam-speaking teachers in Kannada-medium schools?
In 2024, the Maharashtra government appointed Marathi-speaking teachers to Kannada-medium schools in Solapur and Sangli districts. Similar appointments were also made in Kasaragod. Marathi is an Indo-Aryan language, while Kannada is a Dravidian language. Their teaching methodologies differ significantly, making such appointments inappropriate for effective teaching and learning.

How do we address the challenges faced by Kannada-medium schools in the border regions?
The challenges being faced by Kannada schools are not confined to border areas alone; similar issues persist even within Karnataka. In border regions, Kannada-speaking teachers are not being appointed adequately by the respective states. Collectively, we have failed to convince people of the importance of education in the mother-tongue. However, there is some hope for strengthening these schools, with the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority now placed under the State Planning Commission and a minister being put in charge. Funds for the Authority are likely to increase in the coming years, which would help improve educational infrastructure.

There are allegations that the reservations introduced for Kannadigas in border regions and outside the State are not being implemented effectively. What is your response?
Students who have studied from Classes 1 to 10 in Kannada medium anywhere in India are eligible for the reservation. I have been writing to the government every year seeking its effective implementation. However, due to administrative negligence, the reservation has not been implemented effectively.

Gig economy, from Page 1

Poor economic assumptions undermine policy for gig workers

Gig work is often portrayed as part-time or supplementary employment, structured without any formal contract beyond a per-task wage.

Without minimum wages, defined working hours, social security provisions, or institutionalised mechanisms for dispute resolution, the foundational triad that underpins labour economics collapses in the gig economy.

At the same time, platform-based rating systems and the unilateral determination of prices confer substantial control with firms, without any corresponding obligation to provide employment guarantees or assume employer liability.

This produces a structure of authority without responsibility. Consequently, applying traditional labour-economic categories to gig work leaves workers outside the scope of protection and makes enforcement not just difficult, but structurally impossible by design. As with income, a nominal monthly wage that appears "reasonable" on paper often collapses once adjusted for city-specific costs such as housing, inflation and other expenses.

In the absence of minimum wage protection for gig workers, inflation buffers disappear, leading to real wage compression.

Conventional labour economics assumes that employment contracts distribute economic risk between firms and workers: firms absorb fluctuations in demand and input costs, while workers receive relatively stable, predictable earnings.

This risk-sharing logic underpins minimum wages, regulated working hours and social security provisions.

Gig work, however, fundamentally inverts this arrangement. Platform workers bear demand volatility, idle time, fuel price inflation, vehicle maintenance and algorithmic penalties, yet have no control over pricing or incentives. Risk is transferred to workers without granting them the autonomy to set prices or manage that risk.

In a labour-surplus economy like India, where exit options are limited, this asymmetric risk allocation is not corrected by market forces. Thus, gig work does not eliminate risk — it merely redistributes

it downward, without the institutional mechanisms that make such redistribution sustainable.

The nature of work

The unskilled, part-time nature of gig work, combined with zero barriers to entry, underpins the familiar "isn't it enough?" argument often advanced by gig-economy executives, emphasising the earnings opportunities and flexibility that platforms claim to provide.

The relevant question, however, is not whether these claims have surface appeal, but whether they withstand economic scrutiny; and if they do not, how economic frameworks must adapt to protect worker welfare while preserving sufficient incentives for private platforms to grow and innovate.

The unskilled nature of gig work is often invoked to justify exemptions for companies from providing equal social security benefits to gig workers. This argument rests on a simple analogy: skill combined with input generates output and labour is compensated in proportion to the skill involved in delivering that service.

In gig businesses, however, the delivered product is often treated as if it does not reflect any skill possessed by the worker. Similarly, the part-time nature of gig work is frequently used to the company's advantage, being interpreted as a sign of limited commitment to the job. An employee who is partially committed to multiple occupations is then deemed ineligible for benefits in any of them.

Zero barriers to entry effectively strike the nail in the coffin of gig workers' rights and the corresponding responsibilities of gig-based companies. From a corporate perspective, barriers to entry create monopolies, whereas zero barriers are associated with the ideal of perfect competition.

However, this framework cannot be applied to gig workers. An increase in part-time gig work primarily reflects severe unemployment or widespread underpayment across occupations, with gig jobs serving as viable alternatives.

Interpreting this trend as evidence of competitive efficiency is therefore poor economics. The gig economy represents a new economic reality and requires new economic frameworks for understanding and policy formulation.

New economics for gig work

Labour, in the classical economic sense, has evolved substantially over time — from stable, long-term employment to flexible arrangements such as post-pandemic work-from-home models and gig work.

In the gig economy, the absence of permanence does not merely reflect part-time or non-standard hours; it also entails a form of leisure-contingent employment, where workers retain discretion over whether and when to undertake the next task. This lack of commitment to future labour supply represents a fundamental departure from the assumptions of standard labour economics, rendering many of its conventional frameworks only partially applicable.

So what kind of new economics is needed? It is not that standard economics is entirely inapplicable; rather, the problem lies in the way labour is conceptualised.

Gig workers are often viewed as a third party between the restaurant or aggregator and the customer. Yet, from the perspective of gig companies, gig workers constitute the sole labour force through which services are delivered. Therefore, the nature of the employment model should not be used as an excuse to deny workers the right to income security or a stable wage.

(Kaibalyapati Mishra is Senior Research Fellow, CESP, ISEC Bengaluru)

From Cinerama to Dolby Cinema, Kapali's legacy lives on

Multiplex chain brings south India's first immersive screen with lower prices

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS

In 1968, the Kapali theatre opened its doors as the country's first and only Cinerama theatre. Cinerama screens were deeply curved, at around 146 degrees, and used a three-projector system. This extreme curvature was designed to create an immersive viewing experience.

About nine years after Kapali shut its doors in 2017, AMB Cinemas, a Hyderabad-based multiplex, has brought south India's first and India's second Dolby Cinema screen to the same site. What is amusing is that a Dolby screen is also curved, much like the Cinerama screen, to create an immersive experience. However, unlike Cinerama's extreme curvature, Dolby Cinema employs a subtle curved screen, better suited to modern digital projection and film technology.

The multiplex in Bengaluru has one Dolby Cinema screen with 580 seats and dual projection, six screens with Atmos, and three with Surround 7.1. One of the screens also replicates the aesthetics of yesteryear cinema halls for a vintage experience. Construction began 10 months ago, according to Bharath Narang of AMB. AMB Cinemas is a partnership between the Asian Group and Telugu matinee idol Mahesh Babu. The cinema in Bengaluru is promoted as AMB Kapali, to commemorate the iconic theatre in Gandhinagar.

Lower prices

The movie theatre is positioning low ticket and food prices as its USP. A random online check shows that weekend ticket prices are only marginally lower than those at other multiplexes. However, weekday shows are priced lower than those at most multiplexes offering similar facilities. Popcorn at AMB is priced at Rs 90 on weekdays and Rs 100 on weekends, and the management points out that "it is not just an inaugural offer".

"Cinema belongs to everybody. People have shied away from the big screen because of high prices. We want to make both movie tickets and snacks affordable," said Sunil Narang, managing director of AMB Cinemas, at the press meet.

AMB will prioritise Kannada films in Bengaluru.

K PUTTASWAMY, film historian

"Kapali was a massive single-screen theatre back in the day with a 1000-seater capacity. Any movie that ran for 100 days at the theatre was considered a huge success. Movies like Manninna Maga (1968) and Keralida Simha (1981) ran for over 100 days and Premaloka (1987), for over 25 weeks. The Cinerama screen was an attraction in the initial days.

He also mentioned that chefs have been brought in from across the country, and that donne biryani services will be introduced soon. "The kitchen will soon reflect local tastes, and people with old memories of Kapali will be able to relive that again," Bharath added.

When *DH* asked why there was a strong focus on food in a movie theatre, Sunil Narang said, "Sathyam Cinemas in Chennai is our role model. I would go there to eat their vada. If the movie is not good, the audience should at least be satisfied with the food."

Kannada films prioritised

The multiplex chain will prioritise Kannada films at the Bengaluru theatre, the duo stated. The interiors feature movie posters and photographs of Kannada stars as a tribute to Kannada cinema. A dedicated wall of fame honouring the 'Women of Kannada Cinema' is a special attraction.

AMB is also collaborating with a leading real estate group to open another movie theatre in north Bengaluru. It is expected to be ready by March next year, they said.

Do not allow B'luru to become cybercrime hub: Home Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

Stressing the need to intensify efforts against drug trafficking and cybercrime, Home Minister G Parameshwara on Saturday said the police must work more effectively to curb these growing threats.

Addressing senior police officers at the annual conference after reviewing progress at a meeting, the Home Minister expressed concern that despite continuous enforcement actions, drug-related activities continue unabated in the State.

He also pointed out a sharp rise in cybercrime cases, noting that innocent citizens are losing lakhs of rupees every day. To tackle drug peddling and cyber offences, the state government had established exclusive specialised units — a first-of-its-kind in the country — but their performance has not matched the government's expectations, he said. "These divisions should not be treated casually. Officers must work with greater seriousness and efficiency to achieve the intended results," he said.

Highlighting Bengaluru's global profile, the Home Minister said the city is under international scrutiny and should not be allowed to turn into a hub for cybercrime. While acknowledging the commendable work done by police in cracking some recent cybercrime cases, he stressed the need to further strengthen the department's technological capabilities. The government would extend all necessary support in this regard, he assured.

Parameshwara also expressed concern over the handling of cases related to crimes against women and children. Merely arresting the accused and producing them before court is not sufficient, he said, pointing out that many offenders are escaping punishment. "The focus must be on ensuring justice to victims and securing convictions," he added.

Describing honour killings as incidents that bring shame to civil society, the Home Minister said police must provide adequate protection to couples who enter into inter-caste marriages despite opposition from their families. He directed DCRE police stations to pay special attention to such cases and urged officers to listen sensitively to the grievances of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Biker threatens couple with dagger in road rage incident

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a case of road rage, a biker allegedly threatened a couple travelling in a car with a sharp dagger in the middle of the road near Nexus Shantiniketan Mall on Whitefield Main Road, triggering panic among other motorists in the area.

The incident occurred in broad daylight at around 6 pm on Friday, when the couple was driving through the area and reportedly had an argument with the two-wheeler rider over a traffic-related issue. Police said the biker later intercepted the car at a traffic signal, parked his vehicle, and confronted the occupants in the middle of the road.

According to the police, a heated verbal exchange followed, during which the biker allegedly pulled out a sharp dagger that he was carrying and threatened the couple with dire consequences. The aggressive act caused panic among commuters waiting at the signal and briefly disrupted traffic movement.

The entire episode was captured on the car's dash camera, and the video was subsequently posted on social media on Saturday, where it quickly went viral and drew widespread criticism over rising incidents of road rage in the city.

Taking note of the viral video, the Kadugodi police registered a case suo motu and identified the suspect based on the registration number of the bike visible in the footage. A team has launched a manhunt to nab the accused, who is absconding, a senior police officer said.

Police said they are also tracing the victim couple to record a detailed statement and initiate strict action against the accused.

Three youths killed as scooter jumps median

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a tragic road accident, three teenagers, including two college students, lost their lives after their scooter jumped a median and was run over by a speeding lorry near Agalakote village on the Channahalli–Bettakote road on Saturday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Manikanta (20), who was riding the scooter, and pillion riders Srinivas (19) and Touseef (19).

According to the Devanahalli Traffic Police, the incident, which occurred around 11.20 am, was caught on CCTV. Manikanta was riding an Aprilia scooter with two others on the pillion. Preliminary investigations suggest that Manikanta was speeding and riding recklessly. "While negotiating a sharp curve, the rider lost control of the vehicle. The scooter hit the median, causing all three youths to be tossed into the opposite lane," a senior police officer said.

At the same time, a tipper truck (KA 53 AB 3519) heading from Budigere towards Devanahalli was passing through the stretch. The truck driver, Ningappa M Kattimani, was allegedly speeding. The vehicle ran over the trio who had fallen on the road. All three died on the spot. The police have named both the deceased rider, Manikanta, and the truck driver, Ningappa, as accused in the case.

The hand-carved sculptures will be preserved at Lalbagh and displayed at its Open Air Wood Museum. CREDIT: HORITICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Fallen Lalbagh trees find new life as wood sculptures

BENGALURU, DHNS: The 15-day national wood carving workshop, launched in collaboration with the Karnataka Shilpakala Academy, during which fallen trees at the Lalbagh Botanical Garden were transformed into intricate sculptures, concluded on Friday.

The old trees have been given a new form thanks to 48 sculptors from across Karnataka, who worked relentlessly during the workshop to give the raw wood an identity.

Among the trees used for the initiative, some almost 150 years old, were mahogany, silver oak, and eucalyptus. The trees were among those brought down by rain and wind.

The final 26 sculptures feature a peacock, a mother with child, snakes, wild mushrooms, and a saint, among others. All the sculptures will be preserved and displayed at the Open Air Wood Museum within the Lalbagh premises.

The museum currently houses sculptures from the 2018 workshop. The sculptures are laminated every two years and maintained using a concoction of chemicals.

GBA files complaint over illegal felling of 101 trees

BENGALURU, DHNS: The forest cell of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has filed a complaint alleging that Embassy East Business Park Private Limited cut down 101 trees without permission from officials.

The complaint, filed by the Range Forest Officer, Bengaluru East City Corporation, said that the felling of trees without permission is punishable under Section 8 of the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976. Though the incident took place in December, it came to light only recently. The accused company is also said to have transported the timber after illegally felling the trees.

Activists alleged that this was not the first time the group had carried out illegal tree felling. In 2007, illegal tree felling was detected and an FIR was registered, they said.

"Then, a penalty of Rs one lakh was imposed and for a while thereafter, tree felling stopped. In 2020, by circumventing the law, the BBMP Forest Cell issued permission for felling 42 trees. This was a devious attempt to bypass the law, as permission for the felling of more than 50 trees requires advertisement and a public hearing. Using this faulty permission, hundreds of trees were felled from 2022 to 2025," an activist alleged.

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DME), MEGHALAYA
PASTEUR HILLS, SHILLONG
Email ID: pasteurinstituteshil@gmail.com Tel No.: 0364-2591510/94851 06663
No. DHSME&R/SMC/TENDER/IV/31/2025-26/117 Dtd: Shillong, the 15th January, 2026
CORRIGENDUM
In continuation of the tender notice for "Supply and Installation of Equipment/Items for the Department of Skill Lab as per NMC at Shillong Medical College Shillong" under the Directorate of Health Services Medical Education & Research (DME) (NIT No. DHSME&R/SMC/TENDER/IV/20/2025/10033), it is hereby notified that the Directorate has been relocated.
Accordingly, the address for submission of tenders is revised as under: *"Directorate of Health Services Medical Education & Research (DME), MMSRB Building DHS (MI) Top Floor, Health Complex, Nongkynrih - Laitumkhrah, Shillong, Meghalaya - 793003"*.
All tenders and related documents shall henceforth be submitted at the above address only. Tenders submitted at the earlier address after issuance of this notice shall not be considered.
All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged. This Corrigendum shall form an integral part of the tender documents.
Sd/-
Director of Health Services
Medical Education & Research (DME),
Pasteur Hills, Meghalaya, Shillong
MIPR No.: 2594
Dated: 16-01-2026

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

Closing ceremony of the Police Annual Sports Meet: G Parameshwara, Kannika Parameshwari: Police Department: KSRP Stadium, Koramangala, 4.30 pm

Arithmetic Genius Contest: Ramalinga Reddy, K S Narayanaswamy: Reva University; 10 am

Book release: Rukmini Raghuram's book 'Seragina Kidi': Jagadish Sharma Sampa, G Ashwathanarayana: Kadamba Prakashana : Dr H N Multimedia Hall, National College Campus, Basavanagudi; 10.30 am

CULTURAL

BLR Hubba: Manipur with Love, Screams of Silence, Music Concerts: Freedom Park, from 5.30 pm. 'Moods and Melodies – A Day in Our Bangalore': Indian Heritage Academy, Koramangala, from 6.30 pm

Purandara Dasa Aradhana Mahotsava: Singing: Atreyi Krishna K, Mridangam: Prajwal Bhardwaj, Violin: Shruti CV, Khanjira: Harish Chandra: Sameer Sameera Samaya Sanjivini Sansad Pratishthan: Sri Rama Mandira Road, Eighth Cross Road, Malleswaram, 6 pm

Dasara padagalu: K P Shishir, Harmonium: Sanskriti Banavar, Tabla: Dhruva Acharya, Rhythm: S R Inchara: Srimanmadhva Sangha of Rajarajeshwarinagar: Sitaram Mandir, Raghavendra Swamy Matha Road, Beml Layout Third Phase, Rajarajeshwarinagar; 6.45 pm

'Carvalho' play performance as part of 'Tejaswi Drama Festival': Presentation: Adaptation: Horticulture Department, K P Poornachandra Tejaswi Pratishthan: Lalbagh; 5 pm

Hindustani Violin: Vinayak Anantha Hegde, Tabla: Gourish Anantha Hegde: Nadabrahma Kalakendra: Nadabrahma Prayer Hall, G P Rajaratnam Road, Venugopalareddy Layout, Arakere, Bannerghatta Road; 5 pm

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST
Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.1°C
Minimum	15.6°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	50%
Sunset (Jan 18)	6:13 pm
Sunrise (jan 19)	6:46 am
Moonrise	5:30 am
Moonset	5:00 pm

DH DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

WALKING WOES Pedestrian infra is still competing for space built for fast-moving traffic

When Bengaluru roads grow wider but footpaths shrink

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

On an ordinary weekday afternoon, thousands of pedestrians shuffle along pavements near Gandhinagar and Shivajinagar; students weave past broken slabs at Silk Board, the elderly wobble dangerously close to moving traffic near Hebbal, and desperate walkers near Town Hall risk their lives to reach bus stops.

For a city that prides itself as India's tech capital, the stark reality is that its streets remain unsafe for pedestrians. Despite ambitious goals of becoming "the most walkable city in India", pedestrians in Bengaluru are still fighting for space on roads designed primarily for cars, buses, and high-speed traffic.

Recent police data shows that pedestrians account for nearly 28% of all road fatalities in Bengaluru, with over 200 walkers killed annually, a figure that has remained high despite enforcement drives and infrastructure interventions.

At busy intersections, the city's traffic planning tells a familiar story: tall median grills and rigid dividers have been installed to keep vehicles flowing, but these steel cages also trap pedestrians, forcing them to walk long distances to reach designated crossing points.

A reality check by *DH* at several junctions such as Sheshadri Road, K G Road, Hosur Road, and Hebbal Road revealed that skywalks, envisioned as safeguards, remain largely inaccessible to the elderly and persons with disabilities because lifts and escalators rarely function. Good footpaths are often blocked by encroaching vendors, garbage heaps, abandoned transformers, or illegally parked vehicles, forcing walkers onto the road, always at the risk of being knocked down by speeding traffic.

Many walkers whom *DH* spoke to say the problem is not the lack of footpaths, but the lack of willingness to keep them free of obstructions, wide enough for all users, and continuous across the city. In many stretches, pavement slabs are uneven, footpaths are submerged beneath waste or stormwater drains, and vehicles occupy space meant exclusively for pedestrians.

A regular walker near the Silk Board–Madiwala bus stop said, "There is no space for pedestrians as the entire stretch is blocked. It's extremely dangerous, especially for senior citizens, and during peak hours people are forced to stand amid heavy traffic."

"The city claims there are pockets of excellent footpaths," said Arun Pai, coordinator of Walkluru. "But for those commuting to class, work, or hospital on a daily basis, these pockets are exceptions. We've documented over 77 kilometres of quality paths, but there are hundreds more that need urgent attention." Pai believes perceptions are shaped by where people live and that outside select zones, infrastructure still pushes pedestrians into harm's way.

Pedestrians also point out that even upgraded footpaths often crumble months after completion, as seen in areas like Ejipura, where freshly paved paths deteriorated quickly, raising questions about workmanship and civic accountability.

Encroachments on a footpath in Gandhinagar.
DH PHOTOS/B K JANARDHAN

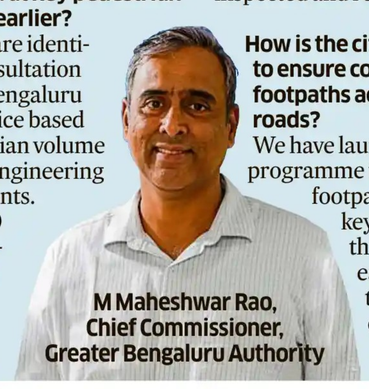
Pedestrian space taken over along the footpath on 80 Feet Road near MS Ramaiah Hospital.

GBA Chief on priorities for pedestrian safety

As Bengaluru continues to grapple with gaps in pedestrian infrastructure, the city's top civic officials say priorities are beginning to shift. In an exclusive interaction with *DH*, GBA Chief Commissioner **M Maheshwar Rao** speaks about delays, design challenges, and the steps now being taken to improve walking conditions across the city.

Why weren't skywalks prioritised at key pedestrian crossings earlier?
Skywalks are identified in consultation with the Bengaluru Traffic Police based on pedestrian volume and road engineering requirements. Nearly 100 such structures have been earmarked, and plans to develop them on a public-private partnership basis are underway.

What about the broken footpaths and slabs that deteriorate soon after construction?
Maintenance challenges stem from limited engineering staff and heavy public use. We plan to recruit more engineers this year and introduce annual maintenance contracts so footpaths are regularly inspected and repaired.



M Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority

How is the city planning to ensure continuous footpaths across major roads?
We have launched a programme to improve footpaths on 100 key roads across the city, 10 in each corporation zone, with dedicated designs for continuity, usable gradients, and safe crossings.

What is your long-term vision for pedestrian safety?
Our aim is to integrate active mobility with public transport. Walk-to-bus and walk-to-metro corridors are the future. Pedestrian needs will guide design rather than being treated as an afterthought after traffic engineering.

Is there a plan to improve the cycling network and lay cycle paths?
Where road width permits, we will integrate cycle paths, though each route demands independent planning based on space and safety considerations. The commissioner emphasised that for pedestrian safety to improve, a "mental switch" is needed, where vehicles yield to pedestrians and pedestrians follow rules conscientiously.

At the same time, civic activists have welcomed initiatives such as the Hejje-Gala corporate mobility challenge launched by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which nudges companies to promote walking and cycling for short commutes and unlocks ground-level data that planners can use to optimise infrastructure.

Despite these daily frustrations, GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao insists the city's priorities have shifted. The 'Pedestrian First' ethos now features in GBA budgets, and coordination between agencies such as water supply, metro, stormwater, and traffic police has improved, he says. The GBA's goal is to expand high-quality footpaths to hundreds of kilometres in the coming years, with citizen feedback guiding decisions.

Anchepalya residents grapple with garbage and burning waste

Lack of access road delays waste sorting facility plans

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

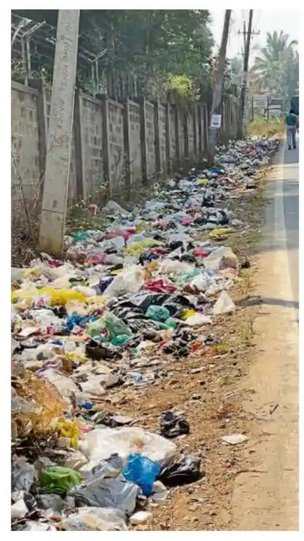
Heaps of garbage and a foul stench have become part of daily life for residents of Anchepalya in north Bengaluru. As a result, garbage burning has become a common occurrence in the neighbourhood.

For Akshata Badrinath and her four-year-old son, who have been residing in an apartment in the neighbourhood for three years, watching people dump garbage along the road has become a daily ritual. "Every day, as I drop my son to school, he notices the amount of garbage and the people who are dumping it by the roadside. We moved to this neighbourhood because it was further away from the city and surrounded by greenery. I wanted my son to see the colours of nature, but all he gets to see from the apartment are heaps of garbage being burnt every day," she said.

The garbage problem in the locality has worsened over the past six months, according to residents. "I've noticed that in the last six months, the waste problem has exploded all of a sudden. Earlier, there were pockets where garbage dumping occurred, but it wasn't as prevalent along the entire road. There has been a big residential boom in the neighbourhood, and we believe that is adding to the problem," said Ravi Subramanyam, who moved to the neighbourhood a year and a half ago from Mumbai.

A 1,200 sq ft apartment in the locality, which would have cost between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 53 lakh three years ago, now stands at Rs 1 crore to Rs 1.5 crore.

The neighbourhood is a contrast of larger-than-life apartment complexes, gated communities, and smaller informal settlements. Residents of apartment complexes fear that waste from a few apartments is being dumped by the roadside, as apartment authorities have not maintained transparency about garbage disposal practices.



Garbage problem has intensified in the past six months, residents say.
DH PHOTO/ASRA MAVAD

For residents with independent homes, the lack of routine garbage pickup remains the biggest concern. "Our lane is too narrow, so the garbage van skips our lane. We have no other option but to dump all our waste in the corner of the street. Every few days, a pourakarmika comes and burns the garbage," said Farzana S.

No waste sorting facility

While the neighbourhood is witnessing a residential boom, amenities in the locality have not been upgraded to accommodate the developments, Narasimhamurthy N, president of Kumbalgodu Gram Panchayat, told *DH*.

"We've been given 2.5 acres of land to build a waste sorting and recycling facility, but due to the lack of an access road, we haven't been able to build the facility. We're currently dumping the waste there, but if it rains, the trucks get stuck. Plus, some of the neighbouring buildings have encroached upon part of the land. We've raised the issue with our MLA, and it is being sorted out," he told *DH*, adding that the facility is likely to be developed in the next nine to 10 months.

The panchayat is also taking steps to raise awareness about proper garbage disposal. On Saturday, the panchayat, residents, and the government school in the area came together to organise a 'Hasiru Habba', which featured the launch of 'Hasiru Hejje Swacha Usiru', a citizens' collective in Kumbalgodu.

Second case of water contamination reported in a month

BENGALURU, DHNS: In less than a month, a second case of water contamination has been reported in the city.

After Lingarajapuram, this time residents of V S Garden in Rayapuram said they have been receiving water mixed with sewage for nearly a week through their Cauvery water pipes.

Senior Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) officials who inspected the pipelines in the area on Saturday said that an illegal connection, which involved cutting the pipeline without permission, had caused the contamination.

"Our team deployed robots to identify the cause of the contamination. Accordingly, we were able to identify the suspected contamination point, and observed that the pipeline there had been cut by some residents to draw an illegal connection," a senior BWSSB official said.

Water will be pumped into the area on Sunday to further investigate and fix the issue, officials said. If needed, water would be supplied through the Sanchari Cauvery programme, they added.

Residents alleged that contaminated water had been supplied for more than a week and that many of their complaints had gone unanswered.

Airport put on alert after bomb threat email

BENGALURU, DHNS: Officials of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) have lodged a police complaint after receiving a bomb threat email warning of blasts using a human suicide bomber and RDX IEDs at airport terminals.

According to the FIR, on Wednesday at around 9.08 am, the NOC Unit of AAI received an email on its official ID, vobl.noc@aai.aero, from gaina_ramesh@outlook.com. The mail claimed, "Implement 1979 Nainar Das Police Union in Tamil Nadu: Human suicide blast using three RDX IEDs in your airport terminals," and asked authorities to evacuate passengers by 1.35 pm before the explosion.

Taking the threat seriously, security agencies immediately initiated verification and safety measures. The Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC) was constituted, and a thorough inspection was carried out across the premises.

A senior police officer said the threat was aimed at creating panic and fear among the authorities. BIAL police have registered a case, and efforts are on to trace the suspect. However, no inconvenience was caused to airport services or travellers as it was a hoax threat, the police said.

Puneeth Kerehalli held on trespass charges, gets bail

BENGALURU, DHNS: High drama prevailed outside the Bannerghatta police station on Friday night after police arrested right-wing activist Puneeth Kerehalli on charges of trespassing and threatening alleged illegal migrants on private property. However, he was released on the same day after obtaining bail from a court.

A senior police officer said Puneeth Kerehalli (34) and his associate, Dr Nagedrappa (38), were arrested following a complaint filed by Siddesh, a resident of Doddathoguru on the outskirts of the city. They were produced before a court, where the duo were granted bail.

The complainant, Siddesh, a resident of S Bingipura village, alleged that on January 13, Kerehalli barged into his property and abused him while threatening him, accusing him of renting out his house to suspected Bangladeshi migrants. Kerehalli allegedly confronted him aggressively, questioning whether he was unaware of the background of his tenants.

Dr Nagedrappa was also arrested for allegedly calling people to protest in the locality following Kerehalli's arrest. Meanwhile, a group of Hindu activists rushed to the Bannerghatta police station and staged a protest against the police action. Supporters shouted slogans and attempted to block a police vehicle, following which they were taken into preventive custody. Police personnel were deployed in strength to maintain law and order and prevent any untoward incident.

Author Rohini Nilekani at the 'Bengaluru Hubba' at Freedom Park on Saturday. DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

Rohini Nilekani launches book at Makkala Hubba

BENGALURU, DHNS

In an era where childhood is increasingly defined by rigorous schedules and glowing screens, philanthropist and author Rohini Nilekani offered a powerful provocation to parents on Saturday. Amid the joyful cacophony of the children's festival *Makkala Hubba* at Freedom Park, Nilekani launched her latest book, *The Playbook of Play*.

The book, however, comes with a twist: it consists almost entirely of blank pages.

Launched under the aegis of 'Bachpan Manao,' a national mission focused on the importance of the early years, the book serves as a metaphorical permission slip for caregivers. During the launch, Nilekani emphasised that the most critical development in a child's life happens not through instruction, but through "free, unstructured play".

"We have put our children into so many little boxes where they cannot find themselves anymore," Nilekani said, addressing a crowd of parents and educators. "Play doesn't need a manual. These blank pages are a reminder to let children explore and enjoy childhood their own way."

The event highlighted a growing concern among urban parents: the "fear of falling behind", with parents noting the mounting pressure to enrol children in endless extracurricular activities.

In response, Nilekani cited neuroscience, noting that nearly 80% of brain development occurs before the age of eight, primarily fuelled by neuronal connections formed during self-directed discovery.

"Don't sacrifice the childhood of the present for the anxieties of the future," Nilekani urged. She described the book as a tool to "free parents from the tyranny of the screen" and allow children to reclaim their natural instincts for curiosity and empathy.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
Email: dycmmcon@ner.railnet.gov.in
Internet: www.ireps.gov.in
Tender Notice No.- 02, Dated 16-01-2026
Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement System

Dy. Chief Material Manager/ Construction, North Eastern Railway/ Gorakhpur and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items.

Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website ***www.ireps.gov.in***

Sr. No.-1, Tender No. & Due Date: 16255041, Dt.11-02-2026, **Description:** Joint less Grooved Copper Contact Wire 107 Sq. mm made out of Continuous cast copper wire rods etc. **Reserved to be procured from**: RDSO, **Qty. Required**: 178.89, **Earnest Money (Rs.):** ₹ 20,00,000/-, **Sr. No.-2, Tender No. & Due Date:** 16255043, Dt. 17-02-2026, **Description:** UN-Insulated Cadmium Copper Catenary wire 65 Sq. mm. (19/2.10 mm) as per RDSO. **Reserved to be procured from**: RDSO, **Qty. Required**: 112.71, **Earnest Money (Rs.):** ₹ 20,00,000/-

Dy. Chief Material Manager/Con, CPRO/**S-75** **Gorakhpur**

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

Walking trails offer a window into city's diverse past

BENGALURU, DHNS

A series of heritage walks on Saturday highlighted Bengaluru's diverse and pluralistic history and culture. They were part of the ongoing BLR Hubba.

Faith and mysticism

On a 3.5 km walk led by Mansoor Ali of Bengaluru by Foot at Nagarathpet, participants discovered the neighbourhood's stories of faith and heroism. The group of 15 wove through the dargahs of Khwaja Shah Sharfuddin and brothers Hamid and Muhib Shah, who served in Tipu Sultan's army. Ali said that Muhib Shah's dargah is unusual for its open roof. The walk continued to Taramandalpet, where Tipu once made and tested rockets before the area was razed by Lord Cornwallis during the 1791 Siege of Bangalore.

Temple stories

At Gavipuram, the walk explored the history of the neighbourhood, a less-known locality, along with its temples and lakes. The walk was led by Raksha Nagaraj of Prayana Bengaluru.

The walk covered the history of three temples. The Sri Gavi Gangadhareshwara Swamy Temple, after which the locality is named, was built inside a cave in the 16th century and later renovated by Hiriya Kempegowda. The hilltop Hari-Hara Temple and the Bande Mahakali Temple were the other temples the group visited.

Cantonment history

The 'Once Upon a Sleepy Station' walk traced the history of the Cantonment area. It was led by Intach-trained Septhar Mukunda and Deepthi Raghuram. Near Bengaluru Cantonment Station, Mukunda spoke about the Bangalore Mail, the city's first train, which ran from the station to Jolarpettai, Tamil Nadu, on August 1, 1864. The group then moved to the BESCOM C Station, the Friend in Need Society (an old age home), the Kambalposh Dargah, and the Sree Kasi Vishwanatheswara Temple in Sulthangunta.

The Nagarathpet Heritage Walk began at the Khwaja Shah Sharfuddin dargah, with a diverse group of participants.

Colonial past

The Colonial Crawl, organised by Gully Tours, was geared more towards newer Bengalureans, unfamiliar with iconic landmarks scattered across the city centre. Facilitator Rohith Siingh, guided a group of 10 participants through the Edward VII (with inscriptions in English, Kannada, Tamil and Urdu, and not a single letter in Hindi, he pointed out) and Queen Victoria statues (created by the same artist as that of her statues in London) at Cubbon Park before moving on to spots on British era 'South Parade' Road, now M G Road. The walk made stops at a British era photo studio, ice cream parlour and shopping complex. It ended at Koshy's, another of the city's historic eateries.

Excise DC, 2 others held accepting bribe of Rs 25 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Lokayukta police on Saturday trapped excise department officials including Deputy Commissioner Jagadeesh Naik, (57) while they were allegedly accepting Rs 25 lakh as part of a bribe demanded for issuing CL-7 and microbrewery licences.

The complainant, Lakshminarayana C, alleged that officials demanded Rs 2.30 crore for clearing the licences — Rs 80 lakh for the CL-7 licence and Rs 1.5 crore for the microbrewery licence. Later, the deal was allegedly finalised at Rs 2.25 crore after offering a "discount" of Rs 5 lakh.

The officials said that Lakshminarayana had initially applied offline for the licences six months ago and paid all mandatory government fees. However, after six months, he was asked to apply online and Rs 16.6 lakh payment was also made. However, the licences were not issued. He alleged that officials made it clear that the process would not move forward without paying the bribe.

The complainant said he was initially asked to pay Rs 50 lakh and, after borrowing money from his friends, he arranged Rs 25 lakh and approached the Lokayukta, following which a trap was laid.

He further claimed that the bribe amount was allegedly meant to be shared with several officials, including higher authorities.

Two of the accused—Lakkappa Gani, (31), Excise constable and Thammanna K M , (41), Superintendent of Excise, — initially escaped during the trap but were later arrested. The bribe was accepted at the office of the Bengaluru Urban District-8, Byatarayanapura, where the accused were caught by the Lokayukta team.

Olive Ridley conservation turns turtle as pvt port work goes on

Trucks bring bldg material at night, 'scare away turtles'

PAVAN KUMAR
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Contrary to assurance that the nesting site of Olive Ridley sea turtles will not be impacted from the construction of a private port at Honnavar's Kasarkod Tonka beach, round-the-clock work at the site has meant that not a single female turtle has arrived there to lay eggs this season.

Usually, turtles reach the sandy beaches of Honnavar division by first week of December to lay eggs. Last year, by mid-January, eight turtles had laid eggs on this beach and over 90 hatchlings of one of the nests were released into the sea on January 30, after the 48-day gestation period.

Though the breeding season is from December to April, experts believe it is highly unlikely that the critically endangered turtles protected under Wildlife Protection Act will come to Kasarkod Tonka to lay eggs henceforth.

Marine biologist Prakash Mesta says Olive Ridley sea turtles are very sensitive and lay eggs in the pitch of darkness in secluded places.

High disturbance

"There is high movement of heavy vehicles day and night. The trucks are dumping boulders and tetra-port on a section of the beach that was ideal for turtle nesting. With so much disturbance, the turtles will never come to lay eggs. We have lost an ideal nesting site forever," he says.

Mesta says these turtles have natal homing behaviour, meaning a turtle born on those shores will come back to lay eggs.

"The private port officials had assured of taking mitigation and conservation measures to protect the sites, but that didn't happen," he said.

The Honnavar division is a crucial breeding ground that annually used to see 35–40 females nesting on its beaches.

Record year 2023

In 2023, a record 83 females had made this 3-km stretch (between Apsarakonda and Pavinkorava), including Kasarkod Tonka, their breeding grounds.

In happier times... Olive Ridley turtles may never visit the sandy beaches in the Honnavar division of Uttara Kannada district to lay eggs, fear conservasionists, as work has begun for the construction of a private port there.

Forest department records show that over the last 2 decades, the breeding ground of sea turtles in Karnataka has shrunk from 15 beaches to five or six due to construction and infrastructure projects.

Multiple videos that local fisherfolks shared with *DH* show trucks with high beam lights plying on the mud road next to the beach after 11 pm, though the forest department has allowed them to transport materials only between 6 am and 10 pm.

'Not regular sites'

Honnavar deputy conservator of forests Yogeesha C K said the division used to record sporadic incidents of turtle nesting and these beaches were not regular nesting sites.

"We don't know the exact reasons why turtles have not nested in the division so far. We still have time till March for them to arrive," he says.

He, however, does not consider construction of the private port as the main reason for turtles skipping the shores this season.

"We have asked the private port officials to halt work between 10 pm and 6 am. They have agreed to it," he said and added that videos provided by the fishermen were from within the permissible hours of work.

In revenue land

Yogeesha said though the department's top priority is conservation of turtles, they are helpless as majority of work is being taken up in revenue land.

He rejected the claims of fishermen that a large number of turtles used to lay their eggs on these beaches. "Port authority officials have claimed that they have CCTV videos to prove that some locals, to derail the project, used to plant eggs in these beaches after getting them from elsewhere," he said.

It's no nesting site: Port official

Honnavar Port Private Limited's executive director Raghavendra Reddy claims Kasarkod Tonka isn't a turtle nesting site. He alleges locals planted turtle eggs. "The National Green Tribunal reviewed video evidence and ruled in our favour. Thanks to Supreme Court orders, we're implementing the project after a delay of 12 years, with no rule violations," he says. Reddy says fishermen are illegally building houses, violating coastal zone regulations, but face no action.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Azim Premji Foundation CEO Anurag Behar at an event to sign an MoU to set up a 1,000-bed charitable super-specialty hospital, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Govt, Azim Premji Foundation ink MoU for 1,000-bed hospital

10 acres on RGICD premises for multi-organ transplant facility

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major boost to the state's healthcare infrastructure, the government and the Azim Premji Foundation on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a 1,000-bed charitable super-specialty hospital in the city.

The facility, which will focus on human organ transplantation, is set to be developed with an estimated investment of Rs 4,000 crore over the next five years.

Speaking at the MoU-signing ceremony at the Vidhana Soudha, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that the government had sanctioned 10 acres of land on the premises of the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases for the project. The land has been provided on a 99-year lease to facilitate the construction and management of the hospital.

The chief minister lauded the foundation's initiative, noting that the project aimed to provide high-end medical care to the underprivileged.

"The Azim Premji Foundation has set a goal to spend Rs 4,000 crore over five years for the construction and maintenance of this multi-organ transplant hospital. Their commitment to providing these services free of cost is a noble act," Siddaramaiah said.

The hospital is expected to significantly ease the burden on existing government tertiary care centres like Victoria and Bowring hospitals.

According to the agreement, the foundation will have autonomy over the hospital's management, while the government will maintain representation on its governing board.

Anurag Behar, CEO of Azim Premji Foundation, emphasised that the organisation's core philosophy was rooted in strengthening public systems.

"Healthcare begins at the grassroots with Asha workers and primary health centres. Our primary goal must be to prevent people from falling ill. We are proud to partner with Karnataka, a state known for its proactive administration in health sector," Behar said.

The CM highlighted the foundation's 25-year legacy in Karnataka's education and health sectors.

He specifically recalled the foundation's contribution of Rs 1.5 crore in 2024 to provide eggs four days a week to students from LKG to class 10.

Siddaramaiah mentioned the 'Deepika scholarship,' which provides Rs 30,000 annually to students graduating from government colleges.

Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil and senior officials were present on the occasion.

Namma Metro fare hike on cards? Surya demands rejig of fixation committee

BENGALURU, DHNS:

If reports are to be believed, metro commuters in Bengaluru may soon have to dig deeper into their pockets, with metro fares likely to see an annual increase from February, based on recommendations made by the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC).

The proposal comes just a year after a significant revision was made in February 2025 that saw fares jump steeply, drawing widespread public ire and political criticism. The 2025 fare hike increased the maximum ticket price from Rs 60 to Rs 90, with proportional increases across most distance slabs to reflect rising operational costs and network expansion.

The FFC report, submitted to the BMRCL, suggested regular fare revisions to help meet rising operational and maintenance costs. Under this mechanism, fares could rise yearly without a fresh review, a move that has alarmed commuters. Based on the recommendations by the FFC, an automatic annual fare hike of up to 5% has been proposed from February.

Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya has challenged the FFC's methodology, alleging "serious anomalies" in fare fixation Surya has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, DyCM DK Shivakumar, the Union Urban Affairs Minister, and BMRCL officials urging the reconstitution of the fare panel and a halt to further hikes till the discrepancies are resolved.

He questioned the selection of the base year used for cost calculations, asserting that unfair pricing has disproportionately hit daily riders. He also contrasted Bengaluru's rates with those in other metros, arguing that fares here are significantly higher even for equivalent distances.

Tejasvi Surya

Delay in tender

"Congress government and @OfficialBMRCL want to increase metro fares due to the projected losses of Namma Metro, which are estimated to be around Rs 7,600 crore by 2029-30. The delay in calling of the tenders for the Orange Line from JP Nagar to Kempapura showcases the neglect of the@siddaramaiah govt towards mass mobility... The inefficiency of BMRCL should not be a reason for increasing fares and burdening commuters," Surya shared on social media platform X, urging BMRCL to explore non-fare box revenue options.

Commuters have echoed these concerns, warning that repeated fare hikes risk pricing out the middle- and lower-income users, pushing more people back to congested roads. "It is very clear what the FFC report states about the annual hikes, but its implementation depends upon formal approvals. No final decision has been taken yet," a BMRCL official told *DH*.

In response to Surya's comments, the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee accused the former of misleading the public over the recent metro fare hike, asserting that the state government has no authority to fix or revise metro fares. In a post on X, the party said fares are determined under the Metro Railways (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2002, a Central law drafted and passed by the BJP. It clarified that Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited is a 50:50 joint venture between the Centre and the State, and that the Fare Fixation Committee is appointed by the Union government.

BJP condemns threat to woman officer in CM's constituency

MYSURU, DHNS: A person, who had developed an arecanut farm on a land identified for NIMHANS under the Varuna Assembly segment represented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has threatened government officials, when they went to inspect the land.

The video of the incident went viral on social media. The BJP too has shared the video on its social media platforms, commenting that the government officials, especially women officers, do not have safety in Karnataka, including the CM's Assembly constituency.

An FIR has been filed at the Mysuru south police station against one G M Puttaswamy, for allegedly threatening Village Administrative Officer G Bhavya and administrative assistant Naveen Kumar. The accused abused her verbally, snatched her phone when she tried to record the incident, and threatened her with dire consequences.

The incident occurred on December 31 and Bhavya lodged a complaint the same day.

Tigress dies in Mysuru Zoo

MYSURU, DHNS: Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Garden (Mysuru Zoo) lost one of its members, a three-year and nine-months-old tigress 'Preethi' on Friday night.

Executive Director of Mysuru Zoo P Anusha said that the tigress refused food for the past five days. She suffered from Haemoprotozoa. Treatment was given by veterinarians of Mysuru Zoo. But she did not respond to the treatment and died.

Anusha added that Preethi was born on July 24, 2022 to tigers Thara and Rocky.

CM to cops: Lack of vigilance caused...

CM, From Page 1

Referring to the stampede at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, Siddaramaiah said adequate crowd management and timely intervention could have saved innocent lives. Similarly, he said, ATM robberies could have been prevented with better surveillance and patrolling, while the Ballari banner dispute could have been defused through early police intervention.

The CM underlined the need for heightened alertness, especially during public events and sensitive situations.

He also called for greater accountability within the force, stating that even minor lapses in vigilance could lead to serious consequences for the public. The police department has been playing a crucial role in maintaining peace and harmony in society, he said, stressing that law must be applied equally to all, irrespective of power or position.

While stating that crime cannot be eliminated entirely, Siddaramaiah said it can certainly be reduced. He termed it "shameful" that police personnel themselves were involved in 88 criminal cases last year. He also warned that no lapses would be tolerated in controlling drug networks, prison administration or jail management. The government is prepared to introduce a new law in the coming Assembly session to ensure strict action against offenders in drug-related cases, CM said. While crimes such as theft, extortion, robbery and murder have reduced, cybercrime and drug-related offences continue to remain a concern, Siddaramaiah said. "Drug abuse is destroying the youth. The government has resolved to make Karnataka a drug-free state. If the police work with alertness and efficiency, this goal can be achieved while also protecting young people," he said.

The CM further said drug networks could be dismantled by questioning drug peddlers and addicts, which would lead investigators to suppliers and producers. He directed all police stations to intensify such efforts immediately.

He said existing laws may need to be strengthened to effectively tackle cybercrime and drug trafficking. "New legislation or amendments may be introduced in the coming days," he added. Siddaramaiah also instructed senior officers to keep a strict watch over inspectors, sub-inspectors and DySPs functioning at police stations to ensure they do not become involved in criminal activities.

On the 'Ballari banner' incident, the CM said the case has been handed over to the CID. He said the district police superintendent was suspended as Ballari is a sensitive district and the officer was not present at the spot. "Action will be taken against those responsible after the investigation report is submitted," he said.

On a case involving the alleged abuse of the Shidlaghatta municipal commissioner, Siddaramaiah said Congress leader Rajeev Gowda is absconding and will be arrested soon. "Irrespective of party affiliation, no one is above the law," he asserted.

Chinnaswamy to see cricket...

Chinnaswamy, From Page 3

The government formed the Justice Michael D'Cunha Commission to investigate the incident, which then recommended several structural changes to the venue before it is given the green signal to host big matches.

Following the commission recommendations, the government formed an Expert Review Committee comprising the Bengaluru police, Fire and Emergency Services Department, Public Works Department and Greater Bengaluru Authority to study the changes being undertaken by the KSCA.

In fact, the committee didn't recommend Chinnaswamy Stadium hosting the Vijay Hazare Trophy group stages matches last month, where Virat Kohli featured for Delhi, despite the KSCA saying those contests will be held behind closed doors.

Saturday's development now leaves the ball in the RCB's court on whether they'll play at Chinnaswamy Stadium, which has been their home since their inception in 2008.

When Chinnaswamy was still a no-go zone, reports emerged that RCB were finalising on playing their home games at DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai and Raipur. The IPL is scheduled to start in March.

KSCA, which was still awaiting permission, had said if RCB failed to commit to Chinnaswamy, then they would explore hosting other franchises.

But in a strange twist on Friday, RCB said they have proposed the installation of 300-350 AI-enabled cameras at the Chinnaswamy Stadium and offered to bear the estimated cost of Rs 4.50 crore for better crowd management.

Rs 1.53L-cr investments in K'taka in 11 months

investments, From Page 3

Toyota Industries Engine Pvt Ltd will invest Rs 1,330 crore to manufacture gasoline and hybrid engines at its Jigani facility, Patil said.

Bengaluru-based deeptech firm QpiAI will invest Rs 1,136 crore to establish a Quantum Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. AT&S will invest Rs 2,850 crore in Nanjangud for electronic components manufacturing. Wipro Hydraulics will invest Rs 499 crore to produce copper laminates required for electronics, while Zenfold Biosciences Pvt Ltd will invest Rs 490 crore to make enzymes for the pharmaceutical sector.

JJG Aero, a city-based aerospace components manufacturer, will invest Rs 470 crore at Adinarayanahosahalli in Doddaballapura for manufacturing aircraft components. Japanese multinational Yaskawa will invest Rs 330 crore on an electronic products manufacturing unit in the same place. Patil said Inox Wind will invest Rs 305 crore to establish a wind turbine manufacturing unit at Kushtagi in Koppal district.

SAP will invest Rs 1,960 crore to open its second facility at Devanahalli. Data Samudra (Tele India Data Center) will invest Rs 1,350 crore across Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad and Mysuru, and Haldiram Snacks will invest Rs 444 crore to set up a snacks manufacturing unit at Vasantha Narasapura in Tumakuru district, Patil said.

PM raises Bengal poll pitch with 'infiltrator' plank

Modi, From Page 3

He called the Mamata Banerjee-led government "irresponsible" and "cruel" and accused the TMC of rampant corruption and of blocking the implementation of welfare schemes rolled out by the Union government.

Modi said that illegal immigration from Bangladesh to West Bengal can't be stopped until the TMC government is ousted from power. He also said that a large-scale operation to detect and deport illegal immigrants from West Bengal will commence as soon as the BJP government comes to power in the state.

The BJP top brass started harping on the issue of illegal immigrants even as the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls in West Bengal triggered protests from the TMC.

Home Minister Amit Shah had spent the last two days of 2025 in Kolkata to review the BJP's preparation for the Assembly polls. He had also alleged that the TMC government put in peril the national security by encouraging illegal immigration from Bangladesh to India.

The saffron party has been accusing the TMC of opposing the SIR to protect its vote bank of Muslim Immigrants who allegedly settled in West Bengal after sneaking in from Bangladesh.

Modi, however, on Saturday also sought to allay the concerns of the Matuas over the prospects of losing voting rights due to the SIR.

"The refugees of the Matua Namasudra community have come here to escape religious persecution in the neighbouring country, and they have nothing to fear," the PM said, adding that his government had provided complete security to the refugees by enacting the Citizenship Amendment Act in 2019.

Matuas now account for nearly 17% of the population of West Bengal and can influence the poll results in 40-45 of the 294 Assembly seats.

Modi referred to the BJP's victory in the Assembly elections in Bihar in November and also highlighted the party's success in the civic elections in Mumbai and the rest of Maharashtra, as well as in the mayoral elections in Thiruvananthapuram.

"In places where the BJP was long targeted by misinformation, public support is now visible. The enthusiasm here today gives me confidence that (West) Bengal, too, will back the BJP decisively in the coming elections," said the PM, adding: "Today, I want to tell every BJP worker that the days of TMC's hooliganism are now numbered."

Indigo hit with Rs 22-cr fine...

Indigo, From Page 3

Penalties of Rs 30 lakh each were imposed on six counts.

In addition for continued non-compliance with provisions of FTDL for 68 days between December 5 and February 10, a daily penalty of Rs 30 lakh/day has been imposed. The total penalties amount to Rs 22.2 lakh.

The DGCA has asked the airline to pledge a bank guarantee of Rs 50 crore.

The bank guarantee-linked reform framework – IndiGo Systemic Reform Assurance Scheme – is "strictly tied" to the DGCA-verified implementation of reforms across four pillars:

1) leadership and governance (Rs 10 crore upon certification in three months) manpower planning, rostering and fatigue-risk management; 2) (Rs 15 crore linked to initial and sustained compliance over six months), digital systems and operational resilience; 3) (Rs 15 cr upon acceptance of upgrades and safeguards within nine months) and board-level oversight with sustained compliance; 4) (Rs 10 crore after six months of continued adherence over a 9–15 month period).

Block of stone unearthed during excavation at Lakkundi temple

GADAG, DHNS: The excavation around the Kote Veerabhadreshwara temple in the historic Lakkundi village in Gadag district started on a promising note with a huge block of stone believed to be part of a larger structure being unearthed on only the second day of the exercise on Saturday.

The block of stone unearthed on the second day of the excavation exercise at Kote Veerabhadreshwara temple at Lakkundi in Gadag district.

Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority Commissioner Sharanu Gogeri said that further excavation would result in remaining parts of the stone structure being unearthed. "It resembles the receptacle into which the anointments poured over idols flow into. It is a one-and-a-half-foot long stone," said Gogeri.

Pointing out that they had only dug till a depth of around 2.5ft, Gogeri added, "We have to proceed in a phased manner. We will probably unearth the remaining sections of the stone structure on Sunday."

Meanwhile, locals are upset with the district administration's order prohibiting entry to the excavation site. "The Kote Veerabhadreshwara temple fair has been held without fail annually for the past 47 years. How will we hold the fair if the district administration restricts access to space around the temple," asked members of the temple committee.

MGNREGA REPEAL H K Patil unhappy over scrapping of UPA-era law, Kumaraswamy rebuts

'Ending law disastrous for Centre-state ties'

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

What according to you is the most problematic aspect in VB-G RAM (G) Act?
The most draconian aspect is the repeal of MGNREGA, which gave people the right to work. It is unfortunate that VB — G RAM (G) was brought in. Don't try to exploit people's innocence. Panchayats used to get Rs 1 crore to Rs 2 crore and used to select works such as building school compounds.

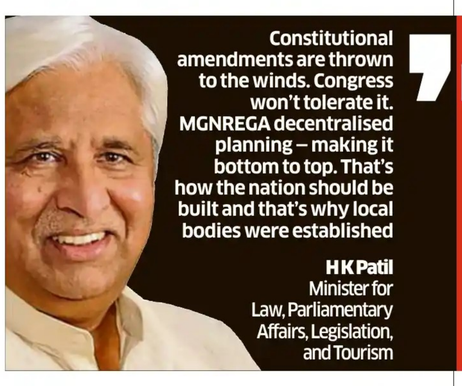
Under VB – G RAM (G), the Centre decides the works from Delhi. Is this the way?
Constitutional amendments are thrown to the winds. Congress won't tolerate it. MGNREGA decentralised planning — making it bottom to top. That's how the nation should be built and that's why local bodies were established.

MGNREGA has had structural defects in its implementation. Aren't all governments responsible for the defects?
I won't say there were no defects at all. But MGNREGA's budget is equal to the quantum of relief given to a few big industrialists. You talk of corruption, but out of 5,400 cases filed by the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the conviction rate is only 0.4%. If you have information on corruption, address it and punish the guilty. Why did you (Modi) continue the scheme for 11 years if you thought it was a 'monumental' piece of failure'? This false propaganda is an insult to the labourers.

The CM's letter to the PM mentioned Articles 258 and 280 of the Constitution, noting there should have been proper consultation regarding budgetary approval from states.
Yes. This is not only killing panchayats, but weakening the federal system. The Centre should consult states on any decision involving financial consequences. Now, they're forcing this project without allowing us to prepare for the financial shift. We've already suffered losses due to GST.

If Karnataka doesn't implement the new Act, it might lose substantial central funds. Is the state bringing its own scheme like West Bengal?
Under MGNREGA, if we couldn't provide work, the government was liable to pay unemployment wages. I want to know if that is possible in the new scheme. We want the Centre to restore MGNREGA, but if that doesn't happen, we'll think of alternatives. Efforts for a potential new state Act are yet to be made.

The state wants to move court against the new federal law. How do you see this affecting Centre-state relations in the coming days?
This will result in a big disaster to Centre-state relations. The credibility of the government of India is being lost. Panchayats might seem small when seen from Delhi, but they're the soul of the country. You're touching the soul of the country, but it will never die. You will have to repent.



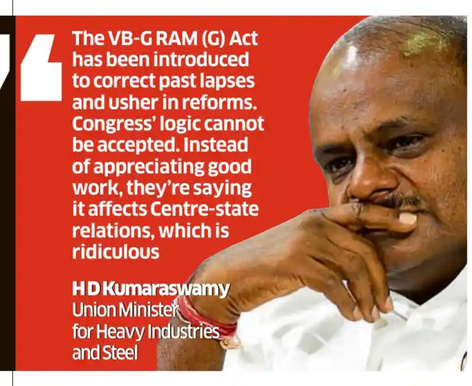
Constitutional amendments are thrown to the winds. Congress won't tolerate it. MGNREGA decentralised planning – making it bottom to top. That's how the nation should be built and that's why local bodies were established

HK Patil
Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation, and Tourism

'Does tackling corruption hit relations?'

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Centre is being accused of replacing MGNREGA, a demand-driven scheme, with a supply-oriented programme, taking away the right to work.
This is baseless. Congress doesn't believe in dynamism. It's creating a false narrative. In Parliament, the union government answered all queries and clarified doubts.



The VB-G RAM (G) Act has been introduced to correct past lapses and usher in reforms. Congress' logic cannot be accepted. Instead of appreciating good work, they're saying it affects Centre-state relations, which is ridiculous

HD Kumaraswamy
Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel

Some people haven't understood the VB-G RAM (G) Act properly. People tend to misinterpret things they don't understand. Neither has employment guarantee been weakened nor have decentralisation and demand-based rights been harmed. Powers of the state and the panchayats haven't been taken away.

What about the charge about undermining federalism by not consulting states?
The agriculture minister has said that the Act was framed after consultation with states. In Parliament, members participated in an extensive discussion. There's not an iota of truth in Congress' allegations. The claim that federalism is being weakened is just a part of the false story. In reality, it's Congress that's insulting federalism.

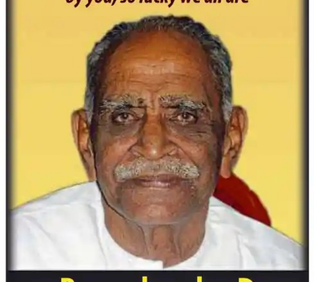
The Congress government wants to challenge the Act in court. How do you see that?
Congress has started this drama to divert people's attention away from maladministration and corruption in the state. It's unfortunate that people have to tolerate this drama. Let them discuss, during the special legislature session, how much was looted under MGNREGA. Proceeds of the loot went to Congress leaders' homes. Fake job cards were created, false records showed the same works again and again to claim money that belonged to poor labourers. The scheme was turned into a scam. Do Congress leaders really have the moral right to move the court?

Will the new Act impact Centre-state relations?
The VB-G RAM (G) Act has been introduced to correct past lapses and usher in reforms. Congress' logic cannot be accepted. Instead of appreciating good work, they're saying it affects Centre-state relations, which is ridiculous. Congress must first learn to come out of its negative attitude. Do you think that bringing reforms and ending corruption will affect Centre-state relations?

How will JD(S)-BJP fight Cong on this?
We're making people understand our point of view. They are wise and aware that MGNREGA benefitted Congress leaders. Sample this: Earlier, when Siddaramaiah was the CM, the police resorted to lathi charge on MGNREGA labourers who weren't paid wages in Koppal. Some labourers who were being ferried in a tractor, after being promised wages, died in an accident. Compensation was announced, only to find that many of them didn't even have a job card! Ineligible people, those aged 65-80 years, were found having job cards. Similar loot happened in Kanakapura (deputy CM D K Shivakumar's seat) and the constituency (Chittapur) represented by the current panchayat raj minister (Priyank Kharge) among other places.

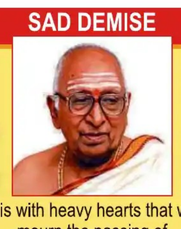
DH
DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

Ramu, our tiger, fierce, gritty and strong willed. You were, are and will remain an inspiration to all of us. To have loved you and having had the chance to be loved by you, so lucky we all are



Ramachandra D
Passed away on **15.01.2026**
we'll all miss you,
Deshmukh Family
email: **sreeshadeshmukh@gmail.com**

SAD DEMISE



It is with heavy hearts that we mourn the passing of
MR.P.M. ANANTHARAMAN
on 15/01/2026.A human being who touched many lives, a pillar of strength and compassion, Anantharaman lived a life filled with love, humility, and devotion. His presence brought comfort, his words brought wisdom, and his love will remain forever in our hearts. He leaves behind cherished memories and loved ones who will miss him dearly.
Forever loved. Never forgotten.
From Family
Hariharan: 9845941976

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

MATRIMONIAL

Brides Wanted

Tamil

BRIDE WANTED
Vadakalai Iyengar - Bharadwaja - Swathi - Thula; Sep' 1995 – Normal Complexion - 172 cm; PG in AI&ML from BITS & BE (ECE) – Working as Lead Data Analyst in MNC, Bangalore; Seeking a Bride who is working in Bangalore or willing to relocate.
+91-94814-06236
+91-97316-33361
krishrang1962@gmail.com

PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, SIDDAMMA resident of No.82, GF-01, Sudarshan Apartment, 2nd Cross, 3rd Main, Amar Jyothi Layout, Cholanagar, R.T.Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560032 have changed my name to SIDDAMMA HULLUR vide affidavit dated 17/01/2026 sworn before notary K.G.Rajpal, Registration No.348 Bengaluru

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, **Basheer Ahamed,** Residing at No. 173, Shikaripalya, Jigani, Bangalore-560105, have lost the **Original Site Registration, Document / Identification No.: BK 1 BNG BMH 3759/2014-15, Site No. 291 Katha No. 154/1, Subhash Nagar, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South.** while in transit. If found please **Contact No: 9036772871.**

BUSINESS

Business Offers

Finance

WE ARRANGE Loan against Commerical/ Residential Building/School Building/ Hospital Building Convention Hall/ Bar & Restaurant Property and Business loan from Schedule Banks. Call Mrs Jyothi 8971132289, 9380509779

MORE Classifieds IN SUPPLEMENT

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Multiple Vacancy

A LEADING Integrated Service Provider with more than Two Decade of market presence is looking for following personnels: (1) FACILITY MANAGER: A well Experience Candidate is Required to work in an Establishment Located at Kasturba Road, Bangalore. (2) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVES: A well Experienced Candidate in Facility Management Services to work in corporate office at BTM Layout. (3) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVES: A well Experience Candidate in Physical Security Industries to work in corporate office at BTM Layout. (4) FIELD OFFICERS: A well Experience Candidate in Physical Security Industries to work in Bangalore South, East & West Regions Candidates should have valid Driving Licenses with two-wheeler. ESI, PF & Conveyance apart from decent take home salary. Contact or forward your CV to: 9740033923 8147002652 9900596738 or info@networkda.com

Accounts & Finance

Teju READY MIX MASALA
REQUIRED ACCOUNTANT Experiences
Bangalore
Contact:
J.S. Masala Company
#61/7, etechannappa Industrial Estate, Magadi Main Road, Kamakshipalya, Bangalore - 79.
E- mail : tejumasala@yahoo.com
70226 09502

Teachers/ Professors

|| Jai Gurudev ||
Sri Sri Academy
Bengaluru North, Yelahanka
Broaden the Vision ... Deepen the Roots
WE ARE GROWING!!!
Qualified Candidates with Experience Required
FRONT OFFICE EXECUTIVE
ACCOUNTANT
SPECIAL EDUCATOR
PRE - PRIMARY (NTT & MTT Trained teacher)
PRT (All Subjects, B.Ed mandatory)
TGT (All Subjects, B.Ed mandatory)
LIBRARIAN
ART & CRAFT TEACHER
OFFICE EXECUTIVE & ASSISTANT
ADMISSION COUNSELLOR
DANCE & MUSIC TEACHER
SANSKRIT TEACHER
SECURITY, GARDNER
Interested candidates can walk in on any day (Mon - Sat)
Time : 9 am to 1 pm, or send your CV at Email: bangalore.ssabn@ssrvm.org
Note :
For All posts- Experience of 2- 3 years in reputed school is desirable
Mastery of English & basic computer Knowledge is compulsory for all teaching position
kindly carry a hard copy of your resume
47/5, Honnenahalli, Yelahanka Hobli, Singanayakanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 064
Call us at : Mob No : 74831 36256

SRI AYYAPPAN
NURSERY PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL, BENSON TOWN, BANGALORE-46 MOBILE 9986155417 9113062970 WE ARE HIRING GRADUATES WITH B.ED, PUC WITH NTT/MONTESSORI GRADUATE CLERK, sriayyappaninstitutions@gmail.com

Swamy Vivekananda Rural Education Society®1963
Chandapura, Anekal Taluk,Bengaluru-560099
www.svres.org | email: hrsvres1963@gmail.com
Mob : 9606009890/ 91/ 92/ 94/ 95/ 96
INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE FOLLOWING POSTS
SV SCHOOL (ICSE)
PRINCIPAL:- M.A/M.Sc, B.Ed, with atleast five years of teaching experience
ASSISTANT TEACHERS:- 1) English:- M.A/B.A, B.Ed
SVR ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL
ASSISTANT TEACHERS:
1) English/ Kannada :- M.A/ B.A, B.Ed
2) Mathematics & Science :- M.Sc/B.Sc, B.Ed
3) Computer Science :- MCA/M.Sc/BE in Computer Science
4) Montessori :- MTT
5) Physical Education :- M.PEd /B.PEd
6) Librarian :- M.Lib/B.Lib
SVR KANNADA MEDIUM SCHOOL(UN-AIDED POSTS)
1) Mathematics :- M.Sc/B.Sc, B.Ed
2) Social Science :- M.A/B.A, B.Ed(Candidates must be in a position to teach the subject in Kannada only)
SVR PRE-UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
LECTURER
1) Commerce: M.Com, B.Ed,
2) Hindi: M.A in Hindi, B.Ed
3) Statistics: M.Sc in Statistics, B.Ed
SVR FIRST GRADE COLLEGE
LECTURER
1) Commerce :- M.Com
2) Computer Science :- MCA/M.Sc/M.Tech in Computer Science
3) Kannada/English/Hindi/Tamil:- M.A
4) Mathematics/ Chemistry/ Physics:- M.Sc
Note: NET / SLET/ Ph.D qualified candidates will be preferred
NON-TEACHING POSTS
1) Front Office :- Any degree with good communication
2) Lab Attender :- PUC, 3) House Keeping :- Minimum 7th Std
4) Supervisor :- Any Degree, 5) Driver :- Having HMV (Heavy Motor Vehicle License) & experience of running school buses
6) Cleaners :- Minimum 7th Std, 7) Security :- Minimum 10th Std
NOTE : Applicants should mention the post and school applied for. Interested and eligible candidates with relevant experience are requested to send Bio Data addressed to the Secretary, SVRES with copies of relevant documents through mail or whatsapp to reach us on or before 24/01/2026. Attractive salary offered
Sd/- Secretary

Sacred Heart Girls' High School
Museum Road, Bangalore-560025
Ph: 080-41278742, Mob: 8970711094
Teachers Wanted for ICSE & ISC
Post Graduate, Graduate, Trained and experienced TEACHERS for the following Subjects.
English, Chemistry, History & Civics, Computer Science, Robotics & A.I., Librarian.
Send your resumes to the e-mail ID: office@shghs.edu.in on or before 27-01-2026
ROUNAQH

Wanted

BE(CIVIL) GRADUATE 5 YEARS Experience Ready Mix Concrete QA/QC/MARKETING Athani Associates Shivamogga 9886721202

Cook

REQUIREMENT: VEGETARIAN CookMinimum 3 years' experience requiredGood knowledge of home-style Indian cookingResponsible for daily meals & kitchen cleanlinessLocation: BasavanagudiSalary: NegotiableContact: 8904298011

General

WANTED COMPUTER Typists Kannada/ English Ladies Only. Contact :Sapthagiri Typing Center Kumar park. Phone :9036360366

Ballari rally: BJP demands MLA Bharath Reddy's arrest

'Police stations functioning as extensions of Congress'

BALLARI, DHNS

BJP leaders on Saturday reiterated their demand for the immediate arrest of Bellary City MLA Nara Bharath Reddy and his close aides, alleging their direct involvement in the murder of a Congress worker and in instigating the violent clashes that erupted in Ballari on January 1.

They also demanded that the case be handed over either to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or investigated by sitting high court judge to ensure a fair probe.

Addressing a protest rally organised at the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) ground in Ballari, BJP leaders warned that Ballari City DySP Nanda Reddy and ASP Ravi Kumar would be held accountable once the BJP returns to power in 2028. They accused the two officers of aiding Bharath Reddy in unleashing violence and in firing gunshots at the residence of BJP leader Gali Janardhan Reddy in Avvambhavi on the night of January 1.

BJP leaders visit the house of deceased Congress worker Rajashekar to offer condolences and present a cheque for Rs 10 lakh to his mother. Opposition leaders R Ashoka, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, BJP state president B Y Vijayendra, MP Govind Karjol, party leaders Janardhana Reddy, B Sriramulu and others are seen.

Won't spare Cong MLA, DySP, says Sriramulu

Former minister B Sriramulu, in an emotionally charged speech, said he would 'rise like a phoenix' in the 2028 elections. Addressing Bharath Reddy in singular terms, he warned that political protection would not last forever.

"Even if you hide in hell, we will bring you to justice," he said, adding that the police officers who helped in this crime would also be punished. Gangavathi MLA Gali Janardhan Reddy criticised Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar for mocking his request for enhanced security after the attack on his house. "If the deputy CM cannot ensure security for citizens, why should he continue in office?" he said. He vowed to uproot Congress from Kalyana Karnataka in the next elections.

'Padayatra on'
BJP state president B Y Vijayendra alleged that Congress leaders were attempting to mislead BJP workers by spreading rumours about internal differences over the proposed padayatra to condemn the Ballari violence. "We have already brought the issue to the attention of the party's top leadership in Delhi. Once the new national president is formally appointed, senior leaders will discuss and decide the dates for the padayatra," he said.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka accused the government of deliberately weakening the investigation into the murder of Congress worker Rajashekar Reddy. He claimed the case was being quietly closed and alleged that police stations and government offices were functioning as extensions of the Congress party. "We have a murderous government in the state," he said.

Questioning Congress' moral authority to speak about the Valmiki community, Haveri MP and former CM Basavaraj Bommai alleged that one of its ministers had siphoned off more than Rs 100 crore meant for the community's welfare to fund Lok Sabha elections. Bommai said the BJP had increased reservation for the community to 7%, while accusing Congress of neglecting Scheduled Tribes.

Earlier in the day, BJP leaders visited the residence of the deceased Congress worker Rajashekar, offered condolences and handed over a cheque for Rs 10 lakh to his mother.

Bheemanna Khandre laid to rest at Bhalki

BIDAR, DHNS: Veteran Congress leader and former minister Bheemanna Khandre was laid to rest, next to the samadhi of his wife Lakshmibai, with full state honours at Shantidham near Chikalachanda on the outskirts of Bhalki on Saturday evening.

In the morning, his mortal remains were kept for public viewing at his residence. Thousands of people paid their last respects to the Lingayat leader. A holiday was declared for schools and colleges in the district as a mark of respect to the freedom fighter. Traders had closed their shops to mourn his demise.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah hands over the tricolour placed on the mortal remains of veteran Congress leader Bheemanna Khandre to his son, Minister Eshwar Khandre.

Arrangements were made to serve food and supply drinking water for people who had come from various places to pay their last respects. The procession of the Congress leader's mortal remains was taken out in the town for over 3 hours.

CM Siddaramaiah, state BJP president B Y Vijayendra, ministers K J George, Laxmi Hebbalkar, Sharan Prakash Patil, H K Patil, S S Mallikarjun and others attended the funeral.

RSS @ 100: 3,000 Hindu meets planned from Jan 18

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hindu sammelans (conferences) will be held in 3,000 places across Karnataka from Jan 18 to Feb 1, to mark the centenary year of RSS.

In north Karnataka, the conferences will continue till Feb 28, the Hindu Samajotsava committee told a press meet here on Saturday.

Events to create awareness on social harmony, family values (Kutumba Prabodhan), environmental protection, Swadeshi way of life and civic discipline will be organised.

Cow worship, processions, bike rallies, exhibitions and sale of Swadeshi products have been planned.

"Saints and seers, social leaders, women representatives and experts will address gatherings," senior RSS functionary N Tippeswamy said.

Corrigendum: In the Deccan Herald edition dated January 17, 2026, an infographic in the Spotlight section of page 9 incorrectly mentions that Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot withheld assent to the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025. The Bill is, in fact, still under the governor's consideration. The inadvertent error is regretted.

ELEVATE: 146 startups to get Rs 38-crore grant

Firms get Rs 50 lakh one-time grant under scheme

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government rewarded 146 startups that have bagged grants under the state-run ELEVATE programme on Saturday.

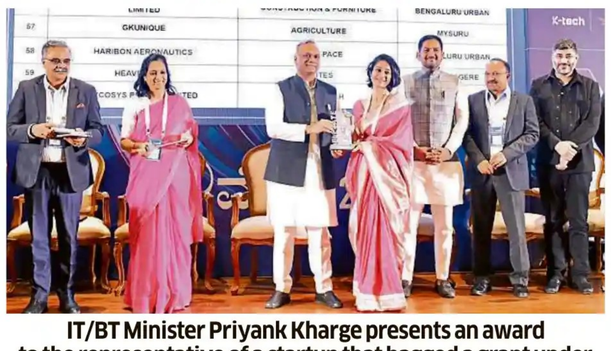
These startups include 103 winners under ELEVATE 2025, a total of 33 under ELEVATE Unnati (for SC/ST entrepreneurs) and 10 under ELEVATE Minorities. They will get a total committed grant of Rs 38.85 crore.

ELEVATE provides a one-time grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh to startups. In addition, they are given mentoring and incubation support at subsidized rates at government-supported centres to help with product development and validation.

Since its launch in 2017, the ELEVATE programme has disbursed Rs 287.85 crore as grant-in-aid to 1,230 start-ups across Karnataka.

Of these, 37% are from beyond Bengaluru, while 28% are led by women entrepreneurs, the IT/BT department said.

In the 2025 batch, 43% of the startups are women-led and 43% are located outside Bengaluru. Their sectors include agritech, consumer electronics, healthcare, edtech and so on. Speaking at the event, IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge urged entrepreneurs not to be discouraged by the hurdles of starting up.



IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge presents an award to the representative of a startup that bagged a grant under the ELEVATE programme, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Referring to Karnataka's role in India's startup journey, Priyank said: "As India marks 10 years of the Startup India movement, this is where it all began. This is where success stories are being built."

It all began with a problem: TrashCon founder

Sharing her entrepreneurial journey, deep-tech waste management firm TrashCon founder Nivedha R M said she started when she was 22, without a formal background in business or technology.

She said she started working directly out of dump sites to understand the reality of India's waste crisis.

"I didn't begin with a business plan. I began with a problem—unsegregated waste being burnt on our streets and harming millions," she said, according to a release.

TrashCon was funded under ELEVATE in 2017. Today, TrashCon is a Rs 400-crore company with large-scale waste processing and recycling solutions deployed across multiple Indian states and international markets, the release said.

"The ecosystem believed in me when I was just a young engineer with an idea," Nivedha said.

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

e-Auction of Commercial Sites (Bulk Land)

Shri N.A. Haris
Hon'ble MLA, Shantinagar, Assembly Constituency & Chairman BDA

Minimum raise of Bid Price in multiples of Rs. 1000 per sq. mtr.

Date of Commencement of e-Auction: 28.01.2026
Last date & time to express interest of participation in e-Auction: 13.02.2026, 5.00 p.m. IST

The Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru, announces the e-Auction of a Commercial Site (Bulk Land). The auction / sale of the site is conducted in accordance with the Bangalore Development Authority's Disposal of Corner Sites and Commercial Sites Rules, 1984. The site is auctioned on **"AS IS WHERE IS"** BASIS.

Date of commencement of Live Bidding: 16.02.2026, 11.00 a.m. IST
Last date for bid closing: 17.02.2026 up to 5.00 p.m. (Delta time 5.00 minutes)

SOUTH ZONE

Sl.No	Layout	Village	Sy.No.	Total Area (in Sqm)	Acres	Guntas	Rate per sq.mtr
1	BSK 3rd stage	Katriguppe	126/1 & 126/2	3099.17	0.00	30.63	1,50,000.00
2	J.P Nagar 8th Phase 2nd Block	Kothanur	38/1	2075.27	0.00	20.51	1,00,000.00
3	J.P Nagar 8th Phase 2nd Block	Kothanur	33/2	6745.62	1.00	26.68	1,00,000.00
4	J.P Nagar 9th Phase 1st Block	Alahalli	6/2 & 6/3	4097.44	1.00	0.50	1,22,000.00
5	J.P Nagar 9th Phase 4th Block	Thippasandra	10	14669.85	3.00	25.00	1,22,000.00
6	Banashankari 3rd Stage	Katriguppe	120/1A	1224.53	0.00	12.10	1,30,000.00
7	Further Extension of Anjanapura 12th Block	Gottigere	17/2	4249.16	1.00	2.00	76,000.00
8	Further Extension of Anjanapura 9th Block	Gollahalli	30/1A 30/2	4755.05	1.00	7.00	77,800.00

For further information contact Engineer on 8310525317 / Citizen Asst.Cell: 9483166622

NORTH ZONE

Sl.No	Layout	Village	Sy.No.	Total Area (in Sqm)	Acres	Guntas	Rate per sq.mtr
1	Further Extension Of RMV 2nd Stage	Bhoopasandra	1	976.00	0.00	9.65	1,71,500.00
2	HBR 1st Stage, 1st Block	Kacharakanahalli	144 & 145	1416.59	0.00	14.00	1,47,000.00

For further information contact Engineer on 8722433608 / Citizen Asst.Cell: 9483166622

WEST ZONE

Sl.No	Layout	Village	Sy.No.	Total Area (in Sqm)	Acres	Guntas	Rate per sq.mtr
1	Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, 6th Block	Malagala	14/2	4628.61	1.00	14.00	1,31,500.00
2	Jnanabharathi 1st Block	Valagerahalli	68/2	3743.34	0.00	0.93	1,00,000.00

For further information contact Engineer on 6362956998 / Citizen Asst.Cell: 9483166622

EAST ZONE

Sl.No	Layout	Village	Sy.No.	Total Area (in Sqm)	Acres	Guntas	Rate per sq.mtr
1	Katamnallur Village	Katamnallur	61/1 & 61/2	5100.88	1.00	10.42	84,150.00
2	Konadasapura Village	Kondadaspura	5	1905.73	0.00	18.84	85,000.00
3	CS-1A	Kondadaspura	-	10037.17	2.00	19.21	76,500.00
4	CS-1B	Kondadaspura	-	7192.58	1.00	31.09	76,500.00

For further information contact Engineer on 8105864769 / Citizen Asst.Cell: 9483166622

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR e-AUCTION

1. The auction purchaser should be a Citizen of India.
2. EMD amount for all sites is **Rs. 1.00 Crore** except CS-1A, which is **Rs. 2.00 Crore** and this amount along with the e-Auction fee should be remitted as mentioned on the e-Procurement portal. 5% Service charge on EMD shall be deducted during refund if remitted to BDA's account instead of E-Auction portal.
3. Advice letters will be sent by e-mail to successful bidders (Highest bidders) to remit 25% of the total cost after deducting EMD amount. Remittance challans should be submitted to Chief Accounts Officer, Finance Department, D Block 2nd Floor Room number 308. In case of failure to remit 25% as mentioned in the advised letter, EMD shall be forfeited.
   Bank Name:- Canara Bank, BDA Complex Branch, Kumara Krupa West, Bengaluru-560020.
   Savings Account Name:- The Commissioner, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru.
   Savings Account Number:- 2828101053014
   IFSC Code No.:- CNRB0002828
   Mode of Payment:- RTGS / NEFT
   Bidders shall pay EMD & 25% from their own bank account only.
4. Uploading of PAN Card in e-auction portal is compulsory (Should be attested by Gazetted Officer/Notary/Attested by Embassy Office in case of N.R.I.). NRI's interested in participating in the e-auction may do so by uploading self attested certificates. Successful bidders can submit certification issued by Indian Embassy later.
5. Successful bidders after remitting 25% of the final bid amount should pay the balance 75% amount within 45 days of receiving the allotment letter from BDA.
6. EMD amount of unsuccessful bidders will be credited to their Account within 30 working days.
7. **For more general terms and conditions visit our website: https://bdakarnataka.in**
8. **There should be a minimum of 2 bidders with minimum 10% increase on the base price for the e-auction sites. Single Bidder will be rejected.**
9. During bidding, if there is any duplication of Nick names for the same site, such bid will be rejected without assigning any reasons.
10. E-auction bidders can download the New e-Auction bidding user manual by logging on to the website **https://bdakarnataka.in** For more information contact Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: 080-46010000 & 080-68948777.
11. Bidders are required to download the prescribed model signature format (in which applicant's name and father's name in Kannada & English Language) and Contact Information format from the website **https://bdakarnataka.in,** fill in the details and upload it on the website.
12. Joint Purchasers of the Site shall specify joint name in the Format provided and jointly upload their Aadhar card, PAN card, Marriage Certificate, Passport or any other Government issued documents in the e-Auction portal. Later requests for Joint registration will be rejected.
13. The auctioned Sites will be allotted to the successful bidders in the same condition as they are. Bidders participating in the e-auction must physically check the location of the site, Road width etc., before bidding. Sites allotted in the e-auction will not be cancelled / substituted.
14. Bidders participating in E-Auction are meant to adhere to all the terms and conditions specified above.
15. Regarding the e-Auction, Bidders should contact the Authority directly and should not contact any middle men.
16. BDA reserves the right to accept or reject the bid made by the successful bidder without assigning any reasons.

BIDDERS HAVE TO READ ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS BEFORE BIDDING AND SHALL PARTICIPATE ACCORDINGLY.

Bangalore Development Authority
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020.

For location of sites and other details, log on to https://bdakarnataka.in
BDA Commericial site related Queries 080-23368435 / 23368036 and KPPP technical issues contact 080-46010000 / 68948777

No. BDA/EM/e-Auction/T-17/2025-26 Date: 17.01.2026

Sd/- Engineer Member

Varsity hired docs linked to Delhi blast without police verification: ED

Says it has provisionally attached Al Falah varsity's land & building worth Rs 140 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI

Faridabad-based Al Falah University had appointed three doctors, two arrested by the National Investigation Agency and the third an alleged suicide bomber of the November 2025 Red Fort area blast, apart from other specialists, without police verification or scrutiny, the Enforcement Directorate has found.

The agency, as part of its money laundering probe against the promoter of the University, is understood to have furnished statements of various senior executives and faculty of the varsity in this context in a chargesheet filed before a Delhi court on Friday.

Arrested 61-year-old Al Falah Group chairman Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui and the Al Falah Charitable Trust, which controls all the educational institutions of the varsity, are the two accused named in the complaint filed under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The about 260-page chargesheet seeks prosecution of Siddiqui and his Trust for alleged generation of illicit funds from fees paid by students, while allegedly misrepresenting the accreditation and recognition of his institutions.

In a statement issued on Friday, the ED said it has provisionally attached the university land and building, worth about Rs 140 crore and located in the Dhauj area of Faridabad.

The court is yet to take cognisance of the chargesheet.

Quoting the ED chargesheet, officials said that doctors at the medical college were employed "on paper" and were listed under a "22 days punch" or "two days per week" clause to be represented as regular faculty, "just to obtain" requisite approvals from the National Medical Commission (NMC) so that the healthcare facility runs uninterrupted.

According to officials, the ED has recorded the statement of the Registrar of the University, who "acknowledged" the visit of probe agencies to the campus and the arrests of "Dr Muzammil and Dr Shaheen, associated with the University hospital." He said that the doctors of the medical college, established in 2019, were hired "without" any police verification.

The Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University told the ED that the doctors reported to be involved in terror-related activities — Dr Muzammil Ganaie, a junior resident in general medicine department since October 2021; Dr Shaheen Saeed, an associate professor in pharmacology since October 2021, and Dr Umar Nabi, the alleged suicide bomber and an assistant professor in general medicine since May 2024 — were appointed during her tenure.

She informed the agency that these appointments were, however, "recommended" by the varsity's HR head and "approved" by Siddiqui, following which she issued formal appointment letters.

PAPER HIRES

- The ED has reportedly submitted statements of senior executives and faculty of Al Falah University in a chargesheet filed before a Delhi court
- Doctors were employed "on paper" under a "22-day punch" or "two days per week" clause, listed as regular faculty just to obtain NMC nod & keep the healthcare facility running
- The court is yet to take cognisance of the ED chargesheet

India presses Iran for early consular access to 16 crew of seized oil tanker

NEW DELHI, PTI

India will continue to press Iranian authorities to grant early consular access to the 16 Indian crew members of a commercial vessel that was detained last month, the Indian embassy in Tehran said on Saturday.

The mission said it was informed in mid-December about the detention of the vessel, MT Valiant Roar, with the Indian crew onboard.

"The Consulate of India in Bandar Abbas immediately (on December 14) wrote to the Government of Iran seeking consular access to the crew," the embassy said in a statement.

It said the request for consular access has been repeated numerous times since then, both by diplomatic correspondence and in-person meetings in Bandar Abbas and Tehran, including at the level of the ambassador. "The matter is expected to be subject to judicial process in Iran," it said.

"However, the Mission and the Consulate continue to press the Iranian authorities to grant early consular access to the crew, and to ensure expeditious completion of the judicial proceedings," it said.

The embassy said the Iranian authorities were requested to allow the crew to communicate with their families in India.

Father of detained Indian sailor seeks Centre's intervention

The father of an engineer, who was among the 16 crew members of an oil tanker reportedly seized by Iran, urged Indian authorities to intervene to secure his son's release, reports PTI from Ghaziabad, UP.

Mukesh Mehta said his son, Ketan, was working as a third engineer on MT Valiant Roar, operated by Dubai-based Prime Tanker LLC. The family has been living in constant fear since learning of Ketan's detention, he said, stressing that his son was only earning an honest livelihood and had broken no law.

Appealing to the government, Mehta urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Directorate General of Shipping to take urgent diplomatic steps to ensure the safe and early release of his son and the other crew members.

MP: Cong MLA links women's beauty to rape, sparks row

BHOPAL/INDORE, PTI: Madhya Pradesh Congress MLA Phool Singh Baraiya has sparked a row after allegedly linking women's beauty to rape and associating sexual crimes against women from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with what he described as "teerth phal" (rewards of pilgrimage).

Baraiya's statements came to the fore on Saturday, when Lok Sabha Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi was in Indore in connection with the water contamination tragedy.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and the MP's ruling BJP strongly condemned Baraiya's remarks, expressing hope that Gandhi would take action against the Congress MLA.

The Congress disagreed with the statement and said the MLA had been asked to clarify it.

Despite the controversy, Baraiya stood by his comment, claiming that it was in the interest of 40 crore women from the SC and ST communities. He also clarified that his statement had nothing to do with the Congress or Rahul Gandhi.

During an interview, Baraiya purportedly claimed that the highest number of rapes in India are against women from SC, ST, and "Most Backward Classes". He said, "So what I mean is the theory of rape is that if a man is walking on the road and sees a beautiful girl, extremely beautiful, his mind may get distracted. Then rape can happen," he said, while going on to ask what "extremely beautiful" women existed among tribals, Dalits and OBCs.

Baraiya further said that rapes against women from these communities take place because "such instructions are given in their (Hindu) religious scriptures".

Second national dolphin survey kicks off, covers Ganga, Brahmaputra and beyond

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Environment Ministry on Saturday launched the second pan-India counting exercise for dolphins, which will assess the status of Gangetic dolphins along with Indus River and Irrawaddy dolphins.

The survey, under Project Dolphin, commenced at Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh with 26 researchers in three boats, recording ecological and habitat parameters while also using hydrophones for underwater acoustic monitoring, a ministry official said here.

In the first phase, the survey will cover the main stem of the Ganga from Bijnor to Ganga Sagar and the Indus River. In the second phase, it will cover the Brahmaputra, the tributaries of the Ganga, the Sundarbans, and Odisha.

The new survey starts three years after the previous one, which recorded an estimated 6,327 dolphins in the Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Gandak, Ghaghara, Kosi, Mahananda and Brahmaputra systems and a small population of Indus river dolphins in the Beas.

Uttar Pradesh and Bihar accounted for the largest numbers, followed by West Bengal and Assam, highlighting the critical importance of the Gangetic basin for long-term dolphin conservation.

This time, the survey will include new stretches and operational areas to include a new species, the Irrawaddy dolphin, found in the Sundarban delta and Odisha.

Such an expanded spatial coverage, the ministry says, will help update population estimates for this species, assess threats and habitat conditions, and support improved conservation planning under Project Dolphin.

The survey will generate robust scientific data to support conservation planning and policy action for river ecosystems.

Led by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, the survey is being carried out in coordination with state forest departments and in collaboration with WWF India, Aaranyak, and the Wildlife Trust of India.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.:SEE/Tr(Op)/South-Circle/EE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/F-310(06)/4902-03 Date:17.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry no: KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/S-Circle/ EE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/EPR-19/Call-2 Dt:28.11.2025 for the work of "Supply, Erection, testing and commissioning of DG set: 58.5kVA Diesel Generator set, rated at 58.5kVA, 415V, 0.8pf, mounted on a base frame, complete with inbuilt fuel tank and battery 1 No. 12V & inbuilt standard manual Control Panel with acoustic enclosure: NAL Approved DG set 58.5kVA capacity with AMF panel as per specification at 220/66/11kV R/s Somanahalli in Operation Division Somanahalli, Bengaluru on Total turnkey basis".
The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging onto KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **19.01.2026.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec.), Transmission (Operation) Circle-South, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru - 09.

KARNATAKA ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
"Samparka Soudha" Survey No.8, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajaji Nagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560010. Tel: 080-22024000, e-Mail: cekrdcl@gmail.com, Website: http://www.krdcl.in
No: KRDCL/IFB/2025-26/22 Date: 13.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE (On KPP Portal basis)

The **Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited [KRDCL]** invites online tender as per KTPP 2000 Act and as per Standard Tender Document through KPP Portal **www.kpppkarnataka.gov.in** for the below work.
Name of Work: **Minor Improvements for Toll Plaza- Strengthening and Minor Improvements of Magadi-Dabaspete-Koratagere Road from Chainage 108+614 KM to 110+614 KM for length of approx 2.00 km and Construction of additional lane at two Toll plaza locations i.e., near Doddamavathur village on Maddur- Kunigal section and near Kempohalli village on Dobbaspete-Koratagere section.** Amount put to Tender (In Lakhs): **511.50.** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): **7.68 lakhs (1.00 lakhs through KPP Portal and 6.68 lakhs through Bank Guarantee OR 7.68 lakhs through KPP Portal).** Tender Period in months (including monsoon): **3 Months.**
1. Interested Eligible Contractors may participate in the Tender process. The details are available in KPP portal from **17.01.2026 onwards. 2.** The Schedule of dates for various activities is as below: **(i)** Pre-bid meeting is on **23.01.2026 at 16.00 hours** at KRDCL Head Office, Bangalore. **(ii)** Last Date for submission of Technical and Financial Bids is on **31.01.2026 up to 17.30 hours. (iii)** Time & Date of opening of Technical Bids is on **03.02.2026 at 11.00 hours** at KRDCL Head Office. "KRDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons".
Note: Henceforth, any changes/modifications in the tender will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, KRDCL, BENGALURU
DIPR/CP/AAA/5090/2025-26

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.
District: Shivamogga, Taluk: Hosanagara,
e-Mail ID: acfhnr@gmail.com
No: ACF/HNR/MPCA-KFDF-CAMPA/CR-1/2025-26/-80
Date:17.01.2026

Detailed e-Tender Notice. Call – 3
(e-Tender Notice Through e-Procurement Portal)

Unitwar Tender is invited in two cover system through e-procurement portal from interested Forest Contractors having 05 (five) years of experience for implementation of total 09 Advance Works under MPCA-MPDA (ANR), KFDF (ANR) & CAMPA (AR) Model Scheme of Approx. total Rs. 63.89 lakhs (CALL - 3)in the limits of various forest zones of Sagar Division for the year 2025-26. Last date for submission of Tender is fixed as: 27.01.2026 up to 5.05 PM. Complete details of works and places are explained in the e-Procurement Portal. For further information this office can be contacted and details regarding the Tender can be obtained from the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests Hosanagara Sub-Division, Hosanagara
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/135/01/1653

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Rural Road Development Agency
(Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Division, Ballari. e-mail ID:eepmgsyblry@gmail.com
No. EE/PD/BLY/TS/PMGSY-3/2025-26/1426
Dt:16-01-2026

Short Term Notice inviting Tenders

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Project Division, Ballari inviters item rate tenders through kppp portal for the following indent work.
Note : For any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions or if recalled, tenderers can view in KPPP portal. Separate notification in this regard will not be published.
Taluku: Siruguppa. **Name of Work & Work Indent:** 5054-PMGSY Programme & Maintenance Fund
Improvements to the road from MRL09-Kotalchintta to MDR via Chikkabellary Honnarahalli from Ch: 0.000 to 12.370 Km, Siruguppa Taluk, Ballari District. Balance Work Including 05 years maintenance & 6th Year Renewal Work **(Work Indent: KRRDA/2025-26/RD/ WORK_INDENT 290). Amount put to Tender (in Lakhs):** 483.71. **(Excluding GST) EMB Amount (2 % in Rs):** 967500/-. **Tender Period:** 02 Months (Date:31-03-2026)
Calendar of tendering events are as follows:
1.Pre bid meeting : **20-01-2026 at 11.00 AM.** 2.Last date for online submission of Bids: **27-01-2026 , up to 16.30 Hours** 3.Opening of technical bid: **28-01-2026. 16.30 hours** 4.Opening of financial bid: **31-01-2026 at 11.00 AM onwards, or soon after Completing the Technical Bid Evaluation of the respective package.**
As per PWD registraction eligbile contractors may praticipate in the tender. For any information the Executive Engineer, PMGSY, Project Division Ballari may contracted Further tender details can be obtained from the website the https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Project Division, RDPR Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/912/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of karnataka
Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Shikaripura
Tender Notice No.: APMC/Sh/Development/579/2025-26
Date: 12.01.2026

Brief Tender Notice (Through e-Procurement Portal of GoK)

Tender is invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal as per Standard Tender Document – KW – 2, (2 Cover System) as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (Amendment) Act 2016 Rules and Government Order No.: FD/876/EXP – 12/2017-18 Bengaluru Dt.: 10.10.2017. Eligible Tenderers can participate in the Tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in **Details of the tender are as below.**
Sl. No. 1. Name of Work: CONSTRUCTION OF REMANING PORTION OF COMPOUND WALL, CC ROAD, CC DRAIN ON WESTERN SIDE OF SUB-MARKET YARD, TADAGANI UNDER ACTION PLAN 2025-26 **Tender Type:** Itemwar Tender (KW-3) **Amount Put to Tender (in Rs.):** 1,27,18,928=00 (EXCLUSIVE OF GST) **E.M.D. 1%(in Rs.):** 2,00,000=00 **Time Period for Completion (Excluding Rainy Season):** 5.5 Months **Eligibility of Contractor:** Eligible KW-4 Civil Contractor registered with PWD **Cost of Tender Form:** As per e-Governance
1. Last date for submission of filled Tender through website 31.01.2026 At 4.00 PM **2**. Tender Pre-bid meeting: 22.01.2026 At 11.00 AM **3**. Date of opening Technical Bid in website: 02.02.2026 At 11.00 AM **4**. Date of opening Financial Bid in website (Contractors eligible in Technical Bid): 06.02.2026, At 11.00 AM After approval of Technical Bid **5**. Place of opening Technical Bid & Financial Bid: Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Shikaripura
Related uploading of the Tender e-portal Helpline 080-46010000 or 080-68948777 can be contacted. For further details visit website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and contact Secretary, A.P.M.C., Shikaripura / Asst. Executive Engineer, No. 3, Sub Division, M.D.S., Shivamogga at this Office.

Sd/- Secretary APMC, Shikaripura **Sd/- Administrative Officer, APMC, Shikaripura**
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/145/01/1650

Directorate of Medical Education
BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com
No: ME/Tender/20/2025-26 Date: 16-01-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Tenders are invited for the **Purchase of Cathlab to Kodagu Institute of Medical College, Madikeri.** Tender Document and E.M.D., details can be viewed, downloaded & applied only through the KPP Portal. Interested tenderers have to register in the KPP Portal, details of which can be viewed in the Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders Dt: 19-01-2026
Pre-Bid Meeting Dt: 29-01-2026 at 11.30 AM
Last date for Uploading the Tenders Dt: 19-02-2026 before 5.00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Dt: 23-02-2026 at 11.30 AM

For further details contact **Director of Medical Education, BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.**

Sd/- Director
DIPR/CP/5073/Adverto/2025-26 **Director of Medical Education, Bengaluru.**

BANGALORE UNIVERSITY
Pareekshabhavana, Jnanabharathi Campus, Bengaluru – 56
No: EX-III/Ph.D/ADMN/ONLINE/SFTWR/2025-26 Date: 14.01.2026

NOTIFICATION

Bangalore University invites quotations in two cover systems i.e. Technical & Financial from registered companies/firms towards designing and developing software to implement the online process of admission, issue of receipt to students for application, acknowledgement for application with serial number, communication to students, downloading of hall tickets, design of OMR sheets & question papers, uploading of result, preparation of merit list and other related aspects for Ph.D admission process at the Examination Branch, Bangalore University, Jnanabharathi Campus, Bengaluru – 560056, within 10 days of publication of this notification.
The technical and Financial bid and terms and conditions may be downloaded from the University's website **bangaloreuniversity.karnataka.gov.in** The bids are to be submitted to the Assistant Registrar (Evaluation), Examination Branch – III, Pareekshabhavana, Jnanabharathi Campus, Bangalore University, Bengaluru – 560056. For clarifications/ queries contact Superintendent, Examination Branch-III on 080-22961210 or e-mail **regeval_ex3@bub.ernet.in.**

Sd/- REGISTRAR (EVALUATION)
DIPR/CP/5095/Zen/2025-26

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-2, Room No-315, Third floor, Mini Vidhana Soudha, Yalahanka, Bengaluru-64.
No: EE/QA/QC/Z-2/BNCC/TEND/03/2025-26 Date:17-01-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) Quality Assurance/Quality Control division, Zone-2, invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below works through KPP portal by the Executive Engineer QA/QC, Zone -2, BNCC.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Providing Decorative Tusker Poles and Lights to the main roads and decorative Ornamental Poles and Lights in remaining parks of Yalahanka Assembly Constituency under CMIDP Scheme 2025-26 (Call-2) **Project Cost: ₹.200.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.5000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP portal GOK from **20-01-2026** at **4:00 pm** (2) Pre-Bid Meeting on **22-01-2026** at **11:30** am. (3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **29-01-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Opening of Technical Bid is **30-01-2026** at **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-2

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-1:Tender-54:2025-26: Dated:- 17.01.2026

SHOR TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the works pertaining to, Hiriyur, and Hangal, Molakalmuru Taluk in Chitradurga District through KPPP Portal as per standard Tender documents rules as follows.
Head of Account:- 4059-80-051-0-60-132 CMIDP Works
Estimated Cost:- Minimum Rs. 100.00 lakhs and Maximum 750.00 lakhs. No. of Works:- 12
Up to Rs. 200.00 lakhs works Tender dates are as mentioned below:
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 27-01-2026 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Tenders 28-01-2026 Time: 16.15
Above Rs. 200.00 lakhs works Tender dates are as mentioned below:
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 02-02-2026 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Tenders 03-02-2026 Time: 16.15
Further details can be obtained from this office and helpline Numbers 080-22230960 and 080-22234115.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/606/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಚಂದಾಪುರ
ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-560081
ಫೋನ್: 080-27832411, E-Mail: ka.chandapura.tmc@gmail.com
ಸಂ:ಚಂ.ಪು.ಕಾ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ/ಟೆಂ/07/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.01.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ, 2025–26ನೇ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. (As Per Government order No.FD 4 PCL 2008, Bangalore, dated:14.10.2008 and Government Order No. FD 876 Exp-12/2017, Bangalore, dated: 10/10/2027 and A&B Value Considered Upto 2024-25)

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53961	29.90
2	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53965	30.00
3	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53968 (Reserve For CAT-I)	30.00
4	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53975	30.00
5	(Reserve For ST) DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53979	30.00
6	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53985 (Reserve For SC)	10.00
7	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54025	29.90
8	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT53971 (Reserve For CAT-II(A)	28.50
9	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54053	30.00
10	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54060 (Reserve For CAT-II(A)	21.50
11	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54063 (Reserve For SC)	29.90
12	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54065 (Reserve For ST)	30.00
13	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54067	11.00
14	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54068	5.00
15	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54112	29.90
16	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54116	14.00
17	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54121	4.00
18	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53967	29.90
19	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54057	30.00
20	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54061 (Reserve For SC)	19.00

ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ: 1) ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:31.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2)** ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾದ ಟೆಂಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ:02.02.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 3)** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಕಿರಿಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:080–27832411 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಂದಾಪುರ | **ಸಹಿ/–** ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಂದಾಪುರ | **ಸಹಿ/–** ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಂದಾಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜಿಎ/5082/2025–26

SNOWLESS PEAKS Familiar white blanket absent over large stretches this time

Dry winter reshapes Himalayas' water, livelihoods & geopolitics

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

As winter set in across the Himalayas this January, an unsettling contradiction unfolded: Temperatures plunged sharply, yet snow — the lifeblood of the mountains — remained scarce.

From Kashmir's plains to Uttarakhand's peaks, the familiar white blanket that defines Himalayan winters was absent across large stretches, triggering concerns far beyond tourism or seasonal discomfort. Experts now warn that this is now reshaping water availability, livelihoods, and even regional geopolitics.

Heavy snowfall was routine in Kashmir — the heart of India's western Himalayan hydrology — during "Chillai Kalan", the harshest winter phase from December 21 to January 29. It insulated orchards, replenished rivers, and sustained the Valley's ecological and economic rhythm.

This winter, however, much of the Valley was largely snow-free well into mid-January, despite night temperatures falling below -6° Celsius. The higher reaches did receive snow, but it was light to moderate, and insufficient to offset the prolonged dryness below.

Meteorologists attributed the phenomenon to weak and infrequent western disturbances. Clear skies intensified nocturnal cooling but failed to deliver moisture.

Climate scientist Shakil Romshoo, one of Kashmir's leading experts on Himalayan hydrology, has repeatedly cautioned that such winters are no longer aberrations. The region, he notes, is seeing longer dry spells punctuated by short, intense weather events — consistent with climate-change impacts. Reduced snowfall weakens snowpack buildup, with consequences unfolding during spring and summer.

Armed Special Operations Group (SOG) personnel of the Jammu and Kashmir Police stand guard as tourists experience snow activities, at Guldanda in Bhaderwah. PTI

Trend, not exception

Long-term data reinforces the concern. From 2003 to 2025, the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region saw 13 below-normal-snow years. Alarmingly, four of the past five winters saw snow persistence below the historical average.

The 2024-25 winter was a critical low point. According to the Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), snow persistence across the HKH region was 23.6% below normal, the lowest recorded in more than two decades. Even snow-dominant basins were affected. The Indus basin, which sustains Kashmir and large parts of downstream Pakistan, recorded a 16% drop in snow persistence.

Seasonal snowmelt leads to roughly 23% of the total river runoff across the HKH region, with its importance increasing westward. For Kashmir, its absence or irregularity means increasingly erratic flows in the Jhelum and its tributaries — brief surges during early melt periods, followed by shortages when agriculture, drinking-water systems, and hydropower projects need them the most.

Early indicators of stress are already emerging in Kashmir. Water and power-sector officials have flagged lower-than-usual winter flows in several streams and rivers, while hydropower generation has faced periodic constraints.

The absence of snow is especially worrying for orchardists. Winter tourism has also felt the impact. Gulmarg's ski season now increasingly depends on short snowfall windows at higher reaches.

The pattern extends well beyond Kashmir. In Uttarakhand, an unusually long dry spell has left even traditionally snow-laden landscapes largely bare this winter. Popular high-altitude destinations, like Tungnath and Om Parvat, had a barren look for much of the season.

According to the India Meteorological Department, dry weather persisted through much of early January, with rainfall forecast only in isolated pockets later in the month. The moisture deficit has begun to stress winter crops, such as wheat and mustard.

Uttarakhand Agriculture Minister Ganesh Joshi has directed officials to assess crop losses caused by the prolonged dry spell. Residents describe conditions as drought-like — a sharp departure from the dependable winter rains that sustained hill agriculture.

Geopolitical effect

The Himalayas feed river systems that sustain nearly 200 crore people across South Asia. Snowpacks shrinking and melt patterns becoming erratic increasingly affects geopolitics.

Analysts warn that climate-driven hydrological variability in the western Himalayas could further strain India-Pakistan water relations under the Indus Waters Treaty. Signed in 1960, it was framed around relatively stable flow assumptions, which climate change is steadily eroding.

Lower and less predictable summer flows in rivers such as the Jhelum and Chenab heighten anxieties in Pakistan, particularly during dry years. Under such conditions, even treaty-compliant hydropower operations in Kashmir are viewed with suspicion.

Experts caution that future tensions may be triggered less by new infrastructure and more by shrinking water availability. Environmental stress could exacerbate the hardening of political faultlines, particularly without climate-responsive mechanisms, improved real-time data sharing, and cooperative basin-level adaptation.

Adaptive responses — better water storage, climate-sensitive hydropower planning, enhanced snow monitoring and cross-border data cooperation — are no longer optional. They are essential to prevent environmental stress from cascading into economic disruption and strategic instability.

(With inputs from Sumir Karmakar in Guwahati & Raju Gusain in Dehradun)

Free buses, monthly aid among AIADMK election promises

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

The AIADMK on Saturday announced the first set of promises for the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

Choosing the birth anniversary of AIADMK founder M G Ramachandran to announce the promises, party general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Saturday said the manifesto was aimed at putting women first and making people-centric promises rooted in welfare, dignity, and economic justice.

He said the AIADMK would provide Rs 2,000 per month to all ration-card–holding families, with the assistance directly credited to the bank accounts of women household-heads.

Other schemes include extending free travel to men in city buses while continuing the existing free bus travel scheme for women, building and allotting apartments in urban areas for those without homes, and providing separate concrete houses for Scheduled Caste families when sons establish independent households after marriage.

Raising the number of employment days from 125 to 150 days under the rural employment scheme, and a Rs 25,000 subsidy to 5 lakh women to buy two-wheelers were the other promises the AIADMK announced.

Sources said the promises were aimed at keeping the party ahead in the perception battle ahead of the Assembly polls.

POLL PLANK

- Rs 2,000 per month to families with ration cards
- Free travel for men and women in city buses
- Apartments in urban areas for those without homes
- Rural job scheme days up from 125 to 150
- Rs 25,000 subsidy to 5 lakh women to buy 2-wheelers

TN Cong leaders told to avoid confusion over DMK alliance

NEW DELHI/CHENNAI, DHNS: Congress central leadership on Saturday told Tamil Nadu leaders not to create confusion among voters about its alliance with the DMK, even as demands were made for accommodating party functionaries in government roles and for more seats in the upcoming Assembly elections.

The meeting, chaired by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and attended by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi to discuss strategy for the Assembly elections, comes amid a section in the party aggressively asking the central leadership to insist that the DMK give them more seats to contest as well as share power.

After the meeting, Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal told reporters that the leadership listened to the leaders patiently. Discussions were constructive and focused on strengthening the party and future strategy, he said.

He said Kharge and Rahul will take a final call on the issues raised by the state leaders.

At the same time, he said a "clear directive" has been issued to leaders to maintain discipline and refrain from making statements, including on social media, and avoid speculation.

Resort politics back in Mumbai as Shinde Sena moves corporators to hotel

Uddhav fuels speculation, Maha Yuti holds edge

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

The Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena on Saturday shifted its newly elected corporators in Mumbai to a luxury hotel amid suspense over who will be the next mayor.

Adding to the speculation, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said his party could still get the mayor's post if "Dev" (God) was willing. He also hinted that Shinde's party feared poaching attempts by its ally, the BJP.

In the 227-member BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), where the majority mark is 114, the BJP has emerged as the single-largest party with 89 seats. Its ally, the Shinde-led Shiv Sena, has won 29 seats, taking the Maha Yuti tally to 118 — comfortably past the halfway mark.

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray meets winning party candidates at his residence, accompanied by son Aaditya and wife Rashmi, in Mumbai on Saturday. PTI

Another BJP ally, the Ajit Pawar-led NCP, which contested separately, secured three seats, taking the alliance's strength to 121.

On the Opposition side, the Shiv Sena (UBT) emerged as the largest player with 65 seats. Its allies — the Raj Thackeray-led MNS (6) and the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) (1) — take the bloc's tally to 72. The Congress, which contested independently, won 24 seats.

The AIMIM won eight seats, while the Samajwadi Party bagged two.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is currently leading a delegation to the World Economic Forum in Davos from January 17 to 24. A final decision on the Mayor's post is expected only after his return.

Meanwhile, Shinde has adopted a no-risk strategy, directing all Shiv Sena corporators to stay at a five-star hotel to prevent political poaching.

A senior leader of Shinde's party said the corporators were being moved to a luxury hotel in Bandra so that they can "refresh" themselves after a hectic election season. Another party functionary said the corporators would undergo "orientation", and will be housed in the hotel for a couple of days.

Responding to Uddhav's remark, Fadnavis said: "What does 'Deva' mean — me or God? It is God's will that the mayor be from the Maha Yuti. The decision will be taken collectively." He also denied any rift within the alliance.

The mayor cannot be finalised until the reservation category for the post is decided through a lottery — expected to take place next week — by the Urban Development Department.

(With PTI inputs)

Modi accuses Cong of disrespecting Assam, facilitating infiltrators

GUWAHATI, PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday accused the Congress of disrespecting the culture and heritage of Assam, claiming that it was evident from the party rolling out a red carpet for infiltrators.

Modi, speaking at a Bodo folk dance performance here, also asserted that the BJP government was "cleansing the sins" of the previous Congress regimes.

"When we show respect to Assam and its culture, some people don't like it. You all know which party doesn't like showing respect; it is the Congress," he said.

He also alleged that the Congress ensured Assam and the state's Bodoland remained disconnected from the mainstream.

"Challenges were there in front of Assam. But, instead of finding solutions through dialogue, Congress pushed the state towards violence," the Prime Minister asserted.

He said the grand old party "opened the doors of Assam for infiltrators" for the sake of "vote bank politics", and these illegal settlers grabbed land all over the state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma waves to the gathering during Traditional Bodo Cultural Programme, in Guwahati. PTI

"Assam's Himanta Biswa Sarma government is now cleansing the sins of the Congress, and clearing encroached land," Modi said.

Affirming his respect and love for the northeastern state, Modi said no other prime minister has visited Assam as much as he has.

Greeting people on the ongoing 'Magh Bihu' festivities, the PM said he never lets go of an opportunity to witness the culture of the state from close quarters.

Asserting that peace has returned to Assam through efforts of the BJP government, Modi said, "There are so many things going on in my mind. I am emotionally thinking of all the progress happening. How the state has moved from bloodshed to cultural performances; sounds of gunshots have given way to that of musical instruments, the silence of curfew has been replaced by music."

Railways to increase Vande Bharat fleet to 800 by 2030

NEW DELHI, DHNS: With growing demand from passengers, Indian Railways has planned to expand its flagship Vande Bharat Express fleet, targeting 800 train sets by 2030 and 4,500 by 2047.

As part of its infrastructure modernisation plan, the railways is scaling up the production of semi-high-speed trains, said an official.

The first Vande Bharat Express commenced service on the New Delhi-Kanpur-Prayagraj-Varanasi corridor in February 2019.

At present, a total of more than 80 Vande Bharat Express trains are offering over 160 services, connecting major cities and spanning 280 districts.

Built under the Make in India initiative, each train-set comes with advanced features. These include automatic plug doors, rotating seats, bio-vacuum toilets and GPS-based passenger information systems.

Political slugfest erupts over death of Bengal migrant worker

KOLKATA, DHNS

Violent protests in West Bengal's Murshidabad district over the death of a migrant worker in Jharkhand triggered a political slugfest between the ruling TMC and the BJP on Saturday, as police baton-charged protesters and arrested nearly 30 people for inciting unrest.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to the unrest in Beldanga while addressing a BJP rally in Malda, particularly the assault on journalists, including a woman, on Friday. "We saw how the TMC goons harassed a female journalist yesterday. As the TMC's misrule over West Bengal continues, girls remain unsafe, even in schools, colleges, and universities," Modi said.

However, TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee alleged that it was the BJP which had orchestrated the unrest in Beldanga. He also accused a 'gaddar' (traitor) of playing a role in inciting violence, tacitly hitting out at expelled TMC legislator Humayun Kabir.

After the body of a 36-year-old scrap dealer, Alauddin Sheikh, was recovered from his rented accommodation in Jharkhand on Friday, the news reached his village in West Bengal and sparked off a violent protest.

The violent protests erupted again on Saturday, after reports about an attack on another migrant worker from the locality in Bihar reached Beldanga. The police, however, resorted to baton-charging the violent protesters and arrested 30 people.

CLIMATE GOALS

Andhra Pradesh gets India's first mega green ammonia plant

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan laid the foundation stone of India's first mega green ammonia plant in Kakinada on Saturday.

Developed by AM Green, a part of the Greenko Group, the Rs 13,000-crore brownfield project spans across 495 acres and will have an annual production capacity of 1.5 million metric tonnes (MMTA).

Unlike the grey or blue ammonia produced from coal, oil, or natural gas, the new facility will produce ammonia through a completely carbon-free process, aligning with global decarbonisation and net-zero emission goals. It repurposes the existing grey ammonia plant of Nagarjuna Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited through a brownfield conversion.

Strategically located near Kakinada Port, the plant enables global exports, with AM Green already signing a deal to supply 1,25,000 tonnes per annum (KTPA) to Germany's Uniper SE. Backed by partners like Malaysia's Petronas, Singapore's GIC, and UAE's ADIA, the project has secured offtake agreements with Yara, Keppel, and others for green hydrogen applications.

The facility complies with EU RFNBO regulations for green ammonia and is certified by CertifHy for both additionality and hourly renewable alignment. The majority of its production is aimed at European markets. Additionally, AM Green has pledged Rs 2,000 crore towards establishing a 2-gigawatt electrolyser manufacturing plant in the vicinity.

The facility receives 1,300 MW of continuous carbon-free electricity from a 4,500 MW solar-wind hybrid system, complemented by 950 MW of pumped storage. AM Green also secured India's most extensive electrolyser contract with France's John Cockerill Hydrogen. Production is set to begin in June 2027.

Several return from violence-hit Iran

NEW DELHI, PTI

Several Indians, including students, have arrived in New Delhi in commercial flights from Iran amid widespread protests in the Islamic nation and Tehran's crackdown that has so far killed more than 2,500 people.

The flights arrived at the Delhi airport late on Friday night. It was not immediately known how many Indians had arrived in these commercial flights.

Upon arriving at the airport here, Ali Naqui, who was a part of a group of 12 to 13 travellers, was asked if they faced any difficulty in Iran. "We didn't face any problem," he replied.

"We have returned from Tehran. Earlier, we were in Iraq, then we travelled to Iran. After an eight-day stay there, we have returned to India," he said.

Mehjabeen Kazmi hugs a relative after arriving at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport from Tehran. REUTERS

A young woman, who is studying at a medical college in Shiraz, said, "The Internet was not working. So, we didn't exactly know what was happening around the country."

The student said the situation in the city she was in was "fine". "We have come back on our own, and not on the arrangement of the Indian government."

Late on Friday night, many people arrived at the airport to receive their relatives arriving from Iran. While many seemed to be gripped by a sense of anxiety, they said that the Indian Embassy in Tehran has been reassuring all Indian nationals there, through whatever means of communication available.

Abbas Qazmi, whose mother and aunt returned from Iran, said, "There was definitely some anxiety because it was a global issue."

SHIFTING ORDER American policies clearly reflect a presidency unbound by precedent

Trump 2.0 altered the image of United States in first year

One year into US President Donald Trump's second term, ending January 20, 2026, it is increasingly difficult to separate his domestic agenda from his foreign policy. Both reflect the same governing instinct: to exercise American power visibly, forcefully and with little regard for longstanding norms.

At home, that instinct has taken the form of the most expansive immigration enforcement campaign in modern US history. Federal agents have appeared in parks, parking lots, farms, factories, outside courthouses and along city streets. Videos of masked officers detaining immigrants have flooded social media. In less than a year, roughly half a million people have been deported. Construction projects have slowed, restaurants have struggled to staff kitchens, and delivery bicycles have been left abandoned after riders were detained mid-shift. The administration also tightened H-1B visa approvals, restricting skilled foreign workers and adding pressure to tech and engineering sectors, with companies reporting slower hiring and difficulty filling specialised roles.

At the southern border, Trump moved swiftly. By declaring a national emergency and effectively halting asylum, his administration reduced illegal crossings to levels not seen in decades. That same logic — borders first, obligations second — has shaped his foreign policy. In Europe, renewed pressure on Nato allies to sharply increase defence spending has shaken confidence in US security guarantees. For decades, American leadership rested as much on predictability as on power. Under Trump, predictability has become conditional, forcing European governments to accelerate discussions about strategic autonomy.

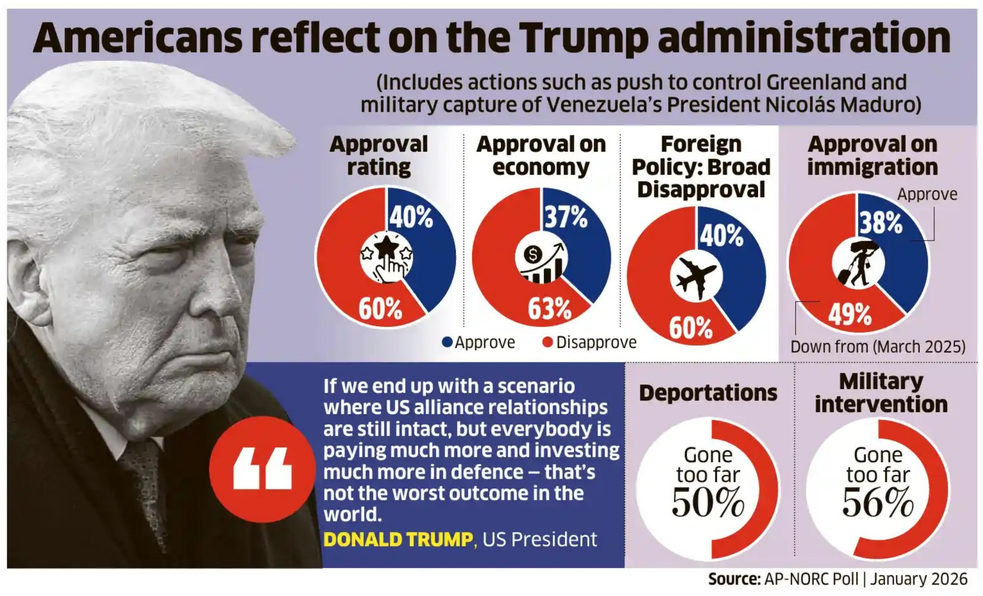
'King of tariffs'

In Asia, Trump has revived a confrontational approach toward China, reimposing high tariffs and tightening restrictions on advanced technology. Supply chains have strained because of his "trade wars." Allies such as Japan and South Korea have welcomed Washington's tougher posture toward Beijing, even as they navigate the uncertainty of a more transactional United States.

West Asia has presented some of the clearest tests of Trump's second-term foreign policy. In Gaza, the administration has sought to shape the postwar landscape through direct involvement, backing transitional governance arrangements while sidelining traditional diplomatic frameworks. Critics warn that bypassing established multilateral mechanisms risks deepening divisions in an already fractured region.

In Ukraine, Trump has pressed for a negotiated end to the war with Russia, signalling impatience with what he has described as an open-ended conflict. His administration has floated peace frameworks that put Ukraine at a disadvantage as he emphasised rapid de-escalation, even as fighting continues. Allies have grown uneasy that US policy could prioritise disengagement over long-term security guarantees, while Moscow continues to test Western resolve.

Iran has remained another flashpoint. Trump has revived and expanded economic pressure on Tehran, imposing new sanctions aimed at financial networks linked to regional proxies. He also authorised US strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities that he said "obliterated" the programme. The strategy reflects a belief that sustained pressure can curb Iran's influence without triggering direct confrontation, though critics argue it risks further escalation.



Source: AP-NORC Poll | January 2026

'Neo-imperialism'

"In practice, the president's policies smack of neo-imperialism, not neo-isolationism," Charles Kupchan, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and a professor at Georgetown University, wrote.

It is in Latin America, however, that Trump has most dramatically challenged diplomatic convention. Trump authorised an operation that resulted in the removal of Venezuela's president, Nicolás Maduro, who was taken into US custody to face long-standing federal charges, including narcoterrorism. The administration framed the move as a law-enforcement action rather than regime change, arguing that sovereignty could not shield leaders accused of crimes involving Americans.

Whether viewed as overdue accountability or a dangerous precedent, the episode marked a rare departure from modern practice. For decades, US administrations relied on sanctions, isolation and negotiations, stopping short of treating the capture of a sitting foreign leader as an explicit objective. Under Trump, that boundary has been decisively blurred.

Trump's willingness to upend assumptions has extended even to questions of territory. His renewed push to acquire Greenland has unsettled allies. Trump has framed Greenland as a "strategic" necessity, citing its Arctic location and growing importance as ice melts and great-power competition intensifies with China and Russia. For him, territory, like trade or security commitments, is negotiable. Supporters see a president finally confronting geopolitical realities without the constraints of diplomatic etiquette. Critics see a pattern of norm-breaking that may be easier to begin than to contain. At home, the consequences of Trump's approach are reshaping politics. Immigration raids in Democratic-led cities have triggered protests and confrontations. Polls show growing unease with aggressive tactics, even among some voters who support stronger borders.

In less than a year, assumptions about American leadership have shifted. Allies are hedging. Adversaries are recalculating. Institutions built on US participation, including the United Nations and Nato, are adjusting to its unpredictability. Trump is not withdrawing the US from the world. He is redefining how it asserts itself — less as a steward of order than as a power willing to redraw it.

Reuters/Agencies

US to slap 10% tariffs on 8 European nations over Greenland

European Union weighing response, says council chief

NUUK/ASUNCION, AP/PTI/ REUTERS

President Donald Trump said on Saturday he would impose a 10% import tax starting in February on goods from eight European nations over their opposition to American control of Greenland.

Trump said in a social media post that Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Finland would face the tariff, which would rise to 25% on June 1 if a deal is not reached for the "complete and total purchase of Greenland" by the United States.

The tariff threat marks a drastic and potentially dangerous escalation in a standoff between Trump and Nato allies, further straining an alliance dating back to 1949 that underpins collective security in Europe and North America.

Reacting to Trump's statement, European Council President Antonio Costa said the EU will defend international law. "What we can say is that the European Union will always be very firm in defending international law, wherever it may be, which of course begins within the territory of the member states of the European Union," Costa told a press conference following the EU's signing of a free trade agreement with Mercosur. "I am coordinating a joint response," he added.

The Republican president has repeatedly used trade penalties to pressure both allies and rivals, securing investment commitments from some countries while drawing pushback from others, including China, Brazil and India.

Trump said in his Truth Social post that the tariffs were retaliation for recent visits to Greenland by representatives from Britain, the Netherlands and Finland, as well as broader opposition to his efforts to purchase the semiautonomous territory of Nato ally Denmark.

He has said Greenland is essential for the "Golden Dome" missile defence system for the US and has argued that Russia and China could seek to take control of the island. Resistance to Trump's ambitions has steadily grown in Europe, even as several countries agreed last year to his 15% tariffs to preserve economic and security ties.

Biggest purple star sapphire unveiled

COLOMBO, AP/PTI: A Purple Star Sapphire weighing 3,563 carats, which is claimed to be the world's biggest of its kind, was unveiled on Saturday by the owners, who are ready to sell the precious stone, which is estimated to be worth $300 million.

The 'Star of Pure Land'. AFP

The round-shaped gem named "Star of Pure Land" is the world's largest documented natural purple star sapphire, said Ashan Amarasinghe, a consultant gemologist. "This is the largest purple star sapphire of its kind," he told the media.

KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#59, Richmond Road (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road),
Bengaluru-25. Ph: 080-25584102 / 25594893
Email: eecontractksphc@gmail.com Website: www.ksphc.org

No: EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/Tender/06/2025-26/358 Date: 16.01.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KSPH & IDCL invites online tender as per KTPP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document through KPPP **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the **"Project Management Consultancy (PMC) Services for the works of Construction of PC & PSI Quarters under Police Gruha-2025 / Phase- V for all Packages at various locations in Karnataka".**

Interested Consultants / firms who are having specific experience in Project Monitoring Services and having required infrastructure as well as financial capabilities to undertake such services may participate in the tendering process. The details such as Tender fee, EMD, Tender documents etc., are available on KPPP from **19.01.2026 onwards.**

"KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids without assigning any reasons."

Note: Henceforth any changes / modifications in the Tender will be updated only on KPPP.

DIPR/CP/YC/5083/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer - Contracts**

Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office: TTMC 'A' Block, 5th Floor, BMTC Building, Shanthinagar, K. H. Road, Bengaluru-560 027.
Phone: 080-2227 8813 / 14 / 15 / 16, Fax No.080-2221 3172,
Website: www.ksmc.karnataka.gov.in

No.KSMCL/e-Tender/Act/33/Tally/2025-26 Date: 17.01.2026

e-TENDER INVITATION

KSMCL invites e-Tender for selection of Agency to maintain Company accounts in Tally Accounting system at KSMCL through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (e-procurement).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tender Reference	33/KSMCL/e-Tender/ACT/ Tally/2025-26/2825
E-Proc reference No.	KSMCL/2025-26/SE0056
Downloading documents from website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	From 17.01.2026
Last date for receiving queries	27.01.2026 Upto 5:00 p.m.
Pre-bid meeting at H.O. of KSMCL	29.01.2026 at 11:00 a.m.
Last date and time for uploading of e-tender in E-procurement platform on or before	31/01/2026 Up to 5:00 p.m.
The Technical Bid will be opened Online by the Authorized Officer on	02/02/2026 at 11:00 a.m.
Estimated Tender Value	Rs.30,00,000/-
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.60,000/-
Address for Communication	Asst. Manager **Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Ltd.,** TTMC, 'A' Block, 5th Floor, BMTC Building, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru – 560 027.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO5077/2025-26 **Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER (F&A)**

Israel objects to US announcement of Gaza committee members

NAHARIYA (ISRAEL), AP/PTI: Israel's government is objecting to the White House announcement of leaders who will play a role in overseeing next steps in Gaza.

The rare criticism from Israel of its close ally in Washington says the Gaza executive committee "was not coordinated with Israel and is contrary to its policy," without details.

Saturday's statement also said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told the foreign ministry to contact Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

The committee announced by the White House on Friday includes no Israeli official but has an Israeli businessman, billionaire Yakir Gabay.

The committee includes US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Trump envoy Steve Witkoff, Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, former British prime minister Tony Blair, Apollo Global Management chief executive Marc Rowan, World Bank President Ajay Banga and Trump's Deputy National Security Adviser Robert Gabriel. It also includes a diplomat from Qatar, an intelligence chief from Egypt, and Cabinet ministers from the UAE and Turkey.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಹಾಸನ
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICER, BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE DEPARTMENT, HASSAN.
D.Devaraja Arasu Bhavan, Shree Vidya Gangapathi Temple Cross Road, Near Akshavani, Salagame Road, Hassan-573202.
Phone: +91 7019024647, **08172-295108**
Email:dobcmhassan@gmail.com Website: https://bcwd.karnataka.gov.in
No.BCWD/A S/Out Source Tender/CR-01/2025-26
Date:13.01.2026

Re-E-Tender Notification : :

Regarding Short Term E-Tender is Invited in the KPPP portal (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.)For Providing Human Services Through Out Source Agency For vacant posts of cooks, kitchen assistants and night watchmen in the pre-matric/ post-matric hostels, vacant posts of data entry operators in the district office &taluk level offices operated by the Backward Classes Welfare Department in Hassan and vacant posts of teaching/ non-teaching & various categories of group D level post in Morarji Desai Residential Schools through an external resource agency. Calendar of Events 1.Tender Reference No BCWD/2025-26/SE0100/CALL-2 2.Estimated Amount Awarded : Rs. 1194.12 Lakhs 3.EMD Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs 4.Pre Bid Meeting Date, Time and Place Date:22.01.2026 Time 03.00 P.M. District office, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Hassan District, Hassan (Location & Date subject to change) 5.Last date & Time for submission of Tender Date:10.02.2026 Time 5.30 P.M. 6.Date & Time of opening of Technical bid Date:12.02.2026 Time 10.30 A.M. (Date Subject to change) 7.Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid Date:16.02.2026 Time 10.30 A.M. District office, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Hassan District, Hassan (Location & Date subject to change) 8.Communication Address and Contact number for further enquiry Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in orDistrict office, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Hassan District, Hassan Email:-dobcmhassan@gmail.com

Sd/- District Officer, Backward classes Welfare Dept, Hassan Dist, Hassan.

ಬಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/939/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

US President is a criminal: Khamenei

DUBAI, AP/PTI: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday branded US President Donald Trump a "criminal" for supporting protesters in Iran, and blamed demonstrators for causing thousands of deaths.

In a speech broadcast by state television, Khamenei said the protests had left "several thousand" people dead — the first indication from an Iranian leader of the extent of the casualties from the wave of protests that began December 28 and led to a bloody crackdown. "In this revolt, the US president made remarks in person, encouraged seditious people to go ahead and said: 'We do support you, we do support you militarily'," said Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters.

"We do consider the US president a criminal, because of casualties and damages, because of accusations against the Iranian nation," he said.

He described the protesters as "foot soldiers" of the United States.

Hindu man crushed to death in Bangladesh

NEW DELHI/DHAKA, PTI: A Hindu fuel station worker was crushed to death in Bangladesh after he tried to stop a vehicle from leaving a petrol pump without paying, police said.

It has not been confirmed whether the incident, which took place on Friday in Rajbari district, is related to the recent spate of violence targeting Hindus in Bangladesh. The victim has been identified as 30-year-old Ripon Saha, The Daily Star newspaper reported on Saturday, quoting police officials. He was working at Karim Filling Station in Goalanda Mor at the time of the incident, it said.

SU DO KU X - 3800

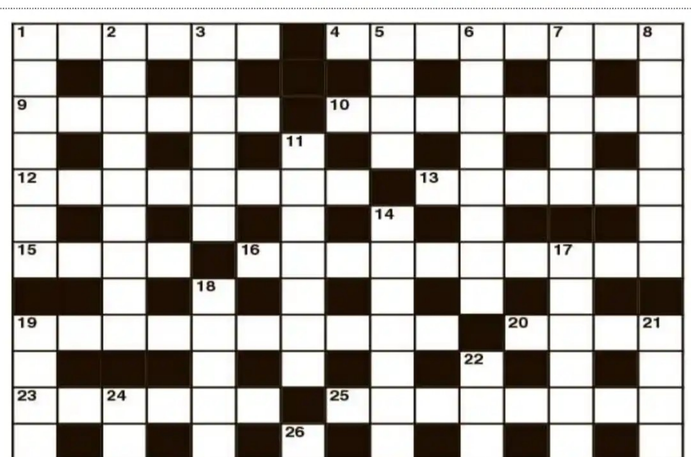
		8						
		4	2	1			9	6
8			7					
			8		1		2	
2	5		4	9				
	3		1				6	9
4					6			
			9		2			

SOLUTION TO 3799

2	1	8	6	4	9	7	5	3
9	4	3	1	7	5	6	2	8
5	6	7	3	8	2	9	4	1
4	7	1	9	2	8	3	6	5
8	3	5	7	1	6	4	9	2
6	9	2	4	5	3	8	1	7
1	2	6	8	3	4	5	7	9
3	5	9	2	6	7	1	8	4
7	8	4	5	9	1	2	3	6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2663 ◆



ACROSS
1 Ablaze (2,4)
4 Inducing euphoria (4-4)
9 Make wealthy (6)
10 Highest-ranking officers (3,5)
12 On the other side of the page (8)
13 Divulge (6)
15 Locate (4)
16 Relax (4,2,4)
19 Gained with great effort (4-6)
20 Horse-breeding establishment (4)
23 Senior female nurse (6)
25 Savage (8)
27 A volcanic upheaval (8)
28 Sorcerer (6)
29 Unassisted vision (5,3)
30 Technique (6)

DOWN
1 Burdensome (7)
2 Belligerent person (4-5)
3 Bring back to mind (6)
5 Greek god of love (4)
6 Text of an opera (8)
7 Egg-shaped (5)
8 Ostentation (7)
11 Mounted troops (7)
14 Respective (7)
17 Consequences (9)
18 Uninhabited (8)
19 A faded celebrity (3-4)
21 Definite (7)
22 Perform a service for (6)
24 Thoroughly contemptible person (5)
26 Pass (2,2)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4023

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 9, In a tr-ice 10, Sea (see) 11, RIP-saw 12, Sam-pan 13, S-ince-re 14, Reel 15, Difficulty 17, Addition 18, Re-moved 19, Well 21, Excite (ex-site) 24, Stretched one's legs 27, Handel (handle) 29, Caws (cause) 30, Dis-p-lay 33, F-air-Isle 35, Slipping on 36, Mint 37, Observe 38, Scr-E-am 40, Screen 41, Use (ewes) 42, Tend-erly.
DOWN: 1, Un-easiness 2, Step 3, P-inn-acle 4, Be-astly 5, Name-calling 6, Fri-endless 7, Spirit 8, Makes out 10, Sunny 16, Floo-re-d 20, E-ndo-w 22, Chea-pen 23, Chicken's out 25, Talks round 26, Season-able 28, At a pin-C-h 31, Imposing 32, Directs 34, Rot-ten 35, Serge 39, Reed (rev).

EASY
ACROSS: 9, Dead beat 10, Can 11, Output 12, Street 13, Remnant 14, Lies 15, Antarctica 17, Colossal 18, Hostile 19, Star 21, Income 24, Feminine intuition 27, Kitten 29, Edge 30, Nunnery 33, Beetroot 35, Playwright 36, Grin 37, Pointer 38, Euston 40, Calico 41, Toy 42, Tadpoles.
DOWN: 1, Setting off 2, Idle 3, Vertical 4, Steroid 5, Incarcerate 6, Tortellini 7, Stylus 8, Lukewarm 10, Comma 16, Attempt 20, Thing 22, Chianti 23, Uncertainty25, Nincompoop 26, North Korea 28, Ice cream 31, Unwieldy 32, Narrate 34, Tennis 35, Putty 39, Soon.

PREMIER LEAGUE Gunners lead the table by six points but Manchester City are masters at making a comeback

CAN ARSENAL END the two-decade long wait?

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Better squad depth and an improved mentality from the players have given leaders Arsenal an added edge as they hope to fend off perennial winners Manchester City and surprise package Aston Villa in a thrilling three-way Premier League title race. AFP

The Premier League has just crossed the halfway mark, and following a hectic festive period of fixtures, eternal bridesmaids Arsenal have managed to stay ahead in a three-horse race with a six-point lead over perennial winners Manchester City and surprise package Aston Villa. Having finished runners-up over the last three seasons under manager Mikel Arteta, the question on every Arsenal fans' lips is whether the Gunners can finally scale the top of the mountain and end an agonising 22-year wait.

The simple answer is there's a lot of climbing still left, and history suggests the second half is generally more arduous, especially the final stretch where City — the most dominant force of this era with eight Premier League titles since breaking a 44-year drought in 2012 — find that extra gear when rivals start running out of breath. Arsenal, who have failed to win the title on the five occasions they've led the table on New Year's Day over the last 23 years, are well aware of the weight of history weighing against them, but this time there's plenty of optimism in North London.

That renewed positivity comes from the lessons the Gunners have learnt from slip-ups in the previous years and how well they've gone about correcting them. Right from bolstering the squad pre-season to give it depth in times of injuries to key players, to back-ups putting their hands up when summoned to on-field organisation and the mentality to clinch the clutch affairs, Arsenal have slowly ticked the boxes this season to remain in contention in all four competitions they are engaged in.

The Premier League is by far one of the most demanding leagues in the world, and considering top teams play an average of 50-60 games over 10 months, injuries are one of the major concerns for every manager. Arteta, who has just one FA Cup and two FA Community Shield titles to show for all the wonderful rebuilding he has engineered at Arsenal since taking charge in December 2019, has not been immune to it. So the Spaniard, a former Arsenal player who learnt the managerial craft under the tutelage of Pep Guardiola at City, first fixed that, recruiting a bunch of players who have played a significant role in the Gunners exhibiting better consistency this season.

Eberechi Eze and Noni Madueke have strengthened the wings and strike-force option, Viktor Gyokeres, despite blowing hot and cold, has shown what a poacher he is, Martin Zubimendi has been a revelation at the heart of the pitch, creating and scoring goals to be an ideal partner for captain Martin Odegaard, while Cristhian Mosquera and Christian Norgaard have put their hands up decently in defence and midfield respectively. Arsenal have had to deal with injuries to key players like Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Jesus, Kai Havertz, Declan Rice, Riccardo Calafiori, Gabriel Magalhaes and William Saliba at various stages, but strong performances from fresh arrivals and substitutes have given Arsenal a more rounded look.

While football is all about scoring goals as that's what wins you matches, an equally important facet is defence. Like last season, they've been the stingiest at the back, conceding just 14 goals in 21 Premier League games so far — five goals less than second-best City. William Saliba and Gabriel have been at the heart of it, hardly letting anything past them, while others like Ben White, Calafiori, Jurrien Timber and Myles Lewis-Skelly too have been extremely disciplined. What has given Arsenal extra teeth is the ability of their defenders to attack when needed and score goals from set-pieces. In fact, the Gunners have been easily the best at set-pieces, bamboozling opposition defences with their ability to find the back of the net with various permutations and combinations.

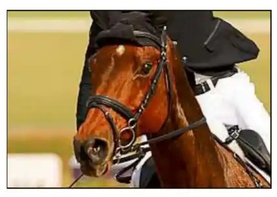
The mentality of Arsenal under Arteta has also changed considerably. During the final years of the great Arsene Wenger and the ensuing turbulent period under Unai Emery, Arsenal struggled to cope with the big teams. This isn't the case anymore. Now they appear a lot more confident, be it against City, Liverpool, Chelsea, or even Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Bayern Munich in the Champions League. They are tactically sound and believe they can go toe-to-toe with the heavyweights.

Having said that, it would be foolish to count City out despite their indifferent form this season. When City won the Premier League for a fourth consecutive time in 2023-24, they were trailing Arsenal by six points on Christmas Day but turned up the engine in remarkable fashion to pip the Gunners by two points in the end. Although City's core squad is quite aged and Guardiola has been forced to make several tactical changes owing to a litany of injuries, the fact that they are masters at making comebacks gives them an added edge. All it takes is a couple of falls from Arsenal and City will be waiting for that moment to pounce on the Gunners and usurp them.

Hoping to spring the biggest surprise will be Villa, one of the two teams to beat Arsenal this season's Premier League. They actually were off to a torrid start, failing to score in their opening four games, losing twice and drawing thrice in the first five matches. But under Emery, who has been wanting to prove a point after being unceremoniously sacked by Arsenal, Villa have turned it around astoundingly since then to emerge as a genuine contender. Although they aren't the favourites despite playing with a lot of heart and spunk, they have the wherewithal to win the first league title since 1980-81.

Villa, nicknamed the 'The Villains' by their fans, have turned Villa Park into a fortress, winning eight out of the 10 games. Every time their credentials have been questioned by the critics, Villa have responded in kind. The wins against fellow rivals Arsenal and City have shown they won't be backing down one bit. With Emery, they have one of the sound minds in Europe and a squad buzzing with confidence.

Arsenal are ahead at the moment, but City have history behind them, while Villa will be looking to create their very own story. Engrossing few months await.



Black Eagle wins Calcutta Champions

KOLKATA RESULTS

Rajender Reddy-trained Black Eagle, ridden by Vishal Bunde, won the Calcutta Champions Sprint Trophy, the feature event of the Calcutta races on Saturday.

1. Cavalry Cup - 2000M: Righteous (Shapoor Mistry) Trevor Patel 1; Born To Be Spoilt (Vinod Shinde) 2; Dubai Prince (M.S.Deora) 3; Schwarzengger (Tejeshwar) 4; Wb: 2-3/4, 2, 1-1/4L. T: 2:09.79. TB: Arti Doctor. Fav: Righteous.

2. Bengal Area Cup -1100M: Victoria Cross (Ms Ameeta Mehra) Suraj Narredu 1; Resplendence (Vinay Jaiswal) 2; Dona Sienna (Trevor Patel) 3; Cache (Gaurav Singh) 4; Wb: 4-1/2, 2-1/4, 1-1/4L.. T: 1:05.19. TB: Neil Darashah. Fav: Victoria Cross.

3. Army Services Corps (ASC) Cup - 1400M: Fable (Tegbir Singh) Trevor Patel 1; Anigraha (Suraj Narredu) 2; Oh My Darling (Tejeshwar) 3; Into The Storm (Alex Rozario) 4; Wb: 3, Lnk, 2L. T: 1:25.71. TB: Aashay Doctor. Fav: Fable.

4. Eastern Command Cup - 1400M: Shine (Subir Dasgupta) Suraj Narredu 1; Pantazi (Trevor Patel) 2; Ghiradelli (Vishal Bunde) 3; La Dominate (Imran Chisty) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, 3-1/2, 3/4L. T: 1:24.14. TB: Vijay Singh. Fav: Pantazi.

5. Calcutta Champions Sprint Trophy - 1200M: Black Eagle (Faiz Adam) Vishal Bunde 1; Meropi (Trevor Patel) 2; Pluto (Hindu Singh) 3; Clifford (Imran Chisty) 4; Wb: 4, 1, 7L. T: 1:11.60. TB: Rajender Reddy. Fav: Meropi.

6. Lt.Gen. Jameel Mahmood Memorial Cup (Div-I) - 1200M: Surrise Fantasy (Enrico Piperno) Suraj Narredu 1; Cashmere Silk (Vishal Bunde) 2; Marcolini (Vaibhav) 3; Rosalia (J.H.Arul) 4; Not Run: Priceless Prince Wb: 1-1/4, 1/2L, Shd. T: 1:14.08. TB: Neil Darashah. Fav: Surprise Fantasy.

7. Lt. Gen. Jameel Mahmood Memorial Cup (Div-II) - 1200M: Most And More (Anil Saraf) Nikhil Naidu 1; Winsangel (Imran Chisty) 2; Spirit Bay (M.S.Deora) 3; Tres Bien (Shezad Khan) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 4-1/2, 3/4L. T: 1:13.65. TB: Rajesh Narredu. Fav: Spirit Bay.

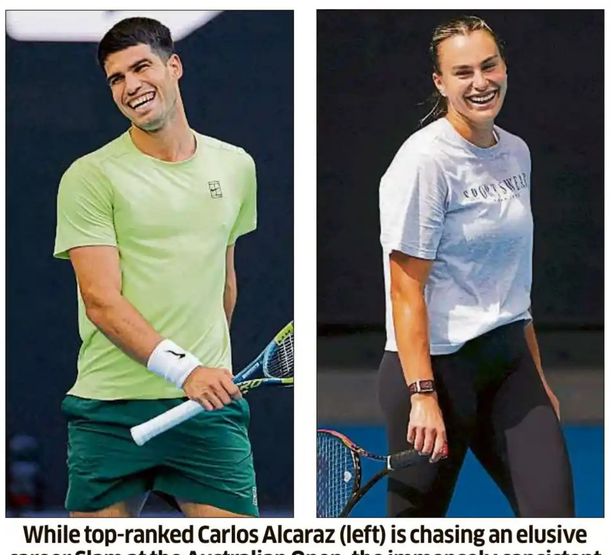
Bengaluru dividends: I race: Rs 13w; 10, 24, 15p; Fc: Rs 71; Q: Rs 56; Shp: Rs 42; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 83 & 17; Ex: Rs 269 & 162.
II race: Rs 16w; 10, 14, 11p; Fc: Rs 61; Q: Rs 39; Shp: Rs 35; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 123 & 43; Ex: Rs 631 & 481.
III race: Rs 37w; 16, 12, 26p; Fc: Rs 87; Q: Rs 30; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 77; Tri: Rs 665 & 514; Ex: Rs 2,506 & 830.
IV race: Rs 21w; 10, 11, 15p; Fc: Rs 26; Q: Rs 14; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 26; Tri: Rs 46 & 40; Ex: Rs 186 & 111.
V race: Rs 44w; 10, 16p; Fc: Rs 48; Q: Rs 10; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 12; Tri: Rs 51 & 67.
VI race: Rs 17w; 13, 14, 15p; Fc: Rs 40; Q: Rs 22; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 40; Tri: Rs 167 & 81; Ex: Rs 308 & 97.
VII race: Rs 29w; 13, 13, 15p; Fc: Rs 84; Q: Rs 40; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 31; Tri: Rs 143 & 51; Ex: Rs 589 & 273.
Jackpot: 2,928 (168). **Runner-up:** Rs 346 (610). **I treble:** Rs 183 (321) **II treble:** Rs 595 (155).

TENNIS AUSTRALIAN OPEN

All eyes on determined Alcaraz, Sabalenka

Defending champion Sinner eyes a hat-trick of titles in Melbourne

MELBOURNE, AFP



While top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz (left) is chasing an elusive career Slam at the Australian Open, the immensely consistent Aryna Sabalenka is gunning for a third title at Melbourne Park. REUTERS

LIVE 5:30 AM, SONY SPORTS

Carlos Alcaraz launches his bid for a career Grand Slam on Sunday "hungry" for an elusive Australian Open title, while Aryna Sabalenka is laser-focused on clinching a third Melbourne crown.

The first major of the year gets under way as a 15-day event for the third time running, aimed at cutting down on late-night finishes.

Top seed Alcaraz is desperate to win it, having failed to go past the quarterfinals in four previous trips to Australia.

The title is the only one missing from his major collection, which currently consists of two French Opens, two US Opens and two Wimbledons.

"This is my main goal for this year," Alcaraz, who gets under way in the night match on Rod Laver Arena against home player Adam Walton, said.

Should the 22-year-old complete the career Slam he would join an exclusive club as just the sixth man to win all four major titles after Andre Agassi, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Rod Laver.

He would also become the youngest, surpassing Nadal, who was 24 at the time.

But he has a big roadblock in front of him, with Italy's Jannik Sinner the two-time defending champion and in peak physical condition. Sinner, who beat Alexander Zverev in last year's final and went on to win Wimbledon, opens against France's Hugo Gaston, who he has met twice before but not since 2021.

Sinner could meet 10-time champion Djokovic in the semifinals before a potential clash with Alcaraz for the title.

Djokovic would surpass Margaret Court as the outright Slam leader on 25 titles should he turn back the clock and upstage his younger rivals. He has a tricky opener against Spain's Pedro Martinez.

Top-ranked Sabalenka kicks off against French wildcard Tiantsoa Rakotomanga Rajaonah, preceding Alcaraz onto Rod Laver Arena.

The Belarusian went into last year's final aiming to become the first woman since Martina Hingis to win three consecutive Australian Opens.

But she was stunned by Madison Keys, a setback she admitted "took me a little time to recover" from.

Keys failed to really kick on from clinching a maiden Grand Slam and is in Australia as the ninth seed.

Sabalenka's chief rival, six-time Grand Slam winner Iga Swiatek is, like Alcaraz, angling for a career Grand Slam in Melbourne. She will begin against Chinese qualifier Yuan Yue.

Young, Christie storm into finals

NEW DELHI, PTI

An Se Young

World number one An Se Young continued her imperious run while Indonesia's Jonatan Christie showed his trademark resilience as they advanced to the women's and men's singles finals respectively at the USD 950,000 India Open Super 750 tournament here on Saturday.

Top seed and defending champion An Se Young, who has already won 11 titles this season and claimed the Malaysia Open Super 1000 last week, was in complete control as she swept past former world champion Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand 21-11, 21-7 in the women's singles semifinals.

"Every match is a new feeling. I feel pressure but I try not to think about my feeling. I just try my best on the day and focus on my game," said South Korean An.

An will face China's world number two Wang Zhiyi, who edged out compatriot and Tokyo Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei 21-15, 23-21 in the other semifinal.

In the men's singles, third seed Christie recovered from an early deficit to outlast Singapore's former world champion Loh Kean Yew 21-18, 22-20 in 46 minutes to enter the final.

"I'm very happy. Loh is a very good player. He is playing very well. In the first set, he already was ahead maybe by 6-7 points. So I just wanted to give my best in this match," said Christie, who left the national training center to become an independent player after the Sudirman Cup last year.

The world number four Indonesian will face either Canada's Viktor Lai or Chinese Taipei's Lin Chun-Yi in the title clash.

In women's doubles, Japan's Yuki Fukushima and Mayu Matsumoto defeated second seeds Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan of Malaysia 21-16, 21-13, while third-seeded Thai mixed doubles pair of Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Supissara Paewsampran stunned top seeds Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping of China 16-21, 21-19, 21-16.

Toofans blow away Tigers 6-0

BHUBANESHWAR, PTI: Hyderabad Toofans registered a dominating 6-0 win over Shrachi Bengal Tigers to kick off the Bhubaneswar leg of the men's Hockey India League (HIL) on a resounding note here on Saturday.

Zachary Wallace (2nd, 17th, 30th minutes) and Tim Brand (12th, 39th, 46th) scored a hat-trick each for Toofans.

Hyderabad opened the scoring in the second minute of the first quarter itself as Talwinder Singh did well to hold and protect the ball inside the circle and passed it on to Wallace who finished the chance with ease.

In the seventh minute, Sukhjeet Singh won a penalty corner for Shrachi Bengal Tigers but Tom Grambusch's drag-flick went inches away from the goal.

The very next minute, the Tigers won another penalty corner and this time, Grambusch's attempt was saved by Hyderabad Toofans goalkeeper Jean-Paul Danneberg.

In the 12th minute, Toofans won their first penalty corner of the evening and although Amandeep Lakra's drag-flick was saved initially by the Tigers, Brand slotted the ball into the net.

Miss American Pie fancied

MUMBAI SELECTIONS

Miss American Pie, from the stables of MK Jadhav, is fancied to win the Mulraj Goculdas Trophy, the feature event of the Mumbai races run over a sprint at the races on Sunday. The first race will start at 2:00 pm.

1. Maharaja Sir Pratapsingh Gaekwad Trophy - 1200M: Eastern Monarch 1, Challenge Accepted 2, Enforcer 3.
2. Mulraj Goculdas Trophy - 1200M: Miss American Pie 1, Irish Gold 2, Market King 3.
3. Jayaramdas Patel Gold Trophy - 2000M: Break Point 1, Endurance 2, Looking Like A Wow 3.
4. PR Mehta Trophy - 1000M: G Valentino 1, Latios 2. Blue Jet 3.
5. YM Chaudhry Memorial Trophy - 1400M: Invictor 1, Silver Dynamite 2, Soleva 3.
6. SM Shah Salver - 1400M: Bezalel 1, Lucio 2, Agatha 3.
7. Ferrari Plate - 2000M: Royal Champ 1, Chicago Chimes 2, Golden Heart 3.
Day's best: Bezalel. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **Treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

Olympic points on offer in Pune

PUNE, PTI: Determiend Indian cyclists will race for crucial Olympic qualification points when the country hosts its first-ever UCI 2.2 multi-stage road race, the Pune Grand Tour, starting here on Monday.

India will field their largest-ever contingent of 12 riders -- split into the Indian national team and the Indian development team -- in the five-day event, which runs till January 23 and serves as a key stepping stone on the road to qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

The race opens with a 7.5km prologue at Goodluck Chowk which will determine early positions in the general classification, before moving into a demanding four-stage test across Pune and the Western Ghats that combines sprinting, climbing and tactical depth.

Stage 1 on January 20, the 87.2km Mulsi–Maval Miles, winds through Pune's IT hub Hinjewadi, blending flat sprint sections with sharp urban turns.

Aditya blanks off-colour Rawat, Advani too good for Chawla

BENGALURU, DHNS

Aditya Mehta

Playing some of his best snooker in recent times, four-time champion Aditya Mehta scored a lopsided 5-0 win over an off-colour Laxman Rawat to storm into the final of the Senior Men's National Snooker Championship in Bahadurgarh, Haryana on Saturday.

The seasoned Mumbaikar, who played eight full seasons as a professional, set up a date with fellow PSPB cueist Pankaj Advani in a repeat of the 2020 final. Advani, the reigning champion, outclassed Ketan Chawla of Madhya Pradesh after a slow start 5-1 in the other semifinal.

The fluent 59 break in the opening frame of the best-of-nine frame encounter got Aditya going. Another gritty 55 break flowed from his cue in the next, and the former World Games gold medallist then just breezed through the next two frames for a 4-0 lead at the break.

Aditya just continued from where he left off on resumption, ending his rival's agony quickly with a silken smooth effort of 61. Aditya, who has had a good 2025 despite making modifications to his cue action in the last 6-7 years due to his neck injury, will look to reclaim the title he won six years ago.

At the adjacent table, Advani, who defeated promising Rayaan Razmi in a late-night quarterfinal on Friday, was slow to start against giant-killer Chawla.

Results: Semifinals: Aditya Mehta (PSPB) bt Laxman Rawat (PSPB) 5-0 (72 (59) -41, 67 (55) -04, 66-25, 81-1, 73 (61) -1); Pankaj Advani (PSPB) bt Ketan Chawla (MP) 5-1 (47-74, 72-28, 83-20, 71-50, 81 (58) -46, 71 (71) -8).

Pranjal, Deeraj power Canarese to massive win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Pranjal Jain hammered a century as Canarese Cricket Club trounced YMCA Cricket Club (1) by 402 runs in the KSCA Group I-V Division league cum knockout tournament for JB Mallaradhya Shield here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Riding on Jain's 133 and half-centuries from Daiwik PM (52), Tarun Balamurugan (75) and Deeraj K (54), Canarese posted a massive 471/8 in 50 overs.

YMCA lads just buckled under the weight of that target, collapsing to 69 all out in just 18.5 overs.

Deeraj starred with the ball too, bagging 4/10, while Harshavardhan DS (3/22) and R Harshith (2/26) assisted him well.

Brief scores: Canarese Cricket Club: 471/8 in 50 overs (Pranjal Jain 133, Mourya MC 42, Daiwik PM 52, Pruthvi Raj 36, Tarun Balamurugan 75, Deeraj K 54; Dhruva Krishna 4-80, M Yashwanth Raj 3-88) bt YMCA Cricket Club (1): 69 all out in 18.5 overs (Karan 43; Harshavardhan DS 3-22, R Harshith 2-26, Deeraj K 4-10).
New National Cricket Club: 201 all out in 43.2 overs (Sagar N 37, Ganesh DR 48; Mariya Williams T 2-33, Kiran Mugar Narahari 4-42, Pradeep Bhaganna 3-17) lt to Gary Cricketers: 202/7 in 43.5 overs (Koushal AR 38, Nischal Mohan 27, Pradeep Bhaganna 52 n.o.; Mansoor Mallik 2-31, Ganesh DR 3-38).
Anglo Youth Cricket Association: 199 all out in 47 overs (Mohammed Naeem Uddin 59, Clint Carlton Meakin 44; Rakesh Kumar 4-34, Murali Krishna 2-35, Bandhav G Raju 2-3) lt to Sri Jayachamarajendra Cricket Club: 199/4 in 37 overs (Bandhav G Raju 68 n.o., Veer V Katkol 40, Aaryansinh Chavda 36, Suryashankar Gowda C 27; Govind Kumar 2-49).
Young Boys Cricket Association: 196 all out in 41.2 overs (Rahul Dubey 45, Yatish Kumar BR 28, Someshwar Navallimath 39; Lakshminarayan M 3-40, M Basavaraja 2-27, Kiran M 2-21) bt YMCA Cricket Club (2): 153 all out in 28.5 overs (Abhishek Katagi 62; Surya V 2-42, Someshwar Navallimath 2-36, Vinu Prasad 3-27, Kathiresan 2-15).

CRICKET THIRD ODI

India look to shield home record

Buoyant New Zealand eye historic first ODI series victory in India

INDORE, PTI

India's absolute dominance at home will come under examination when they meet a determined New Zealand in the decisive third ODI at the high-scoring Holkar Stadium here on Sunday, with the three-match series locked at 1-1.

India have not lost a bilateral ODI series at home since March 2019, when Australia overturned a 0-2 deficit to win 3–2, including the decider in Delhi. But that history is now firmly on the line.

For New Zealand, the context is equally compelling. The Black Caps have toured India for bilateral ODIs since 1989 but have never won a series in India and this is arguably their best opportunity to break that barren run.

India head coach Gautam Gambhir would not like another tumbling at home under his regime after getting a number of unwanted firsts. India lost five Tests at home under Gambhir apart from losing an ODI series in Sri Lanka for the first time.

India's defeat in the second ODI at Rajkot was shaped less by one extraordinary innings than by how New Zealand seized control of the middle overs.

Daryl Mitchell's unbeaten century was built on calculated aggression, particularly against spin, an area where India have been struggling of late.

Indore, with its short boundaries and minimal assistance for bowlers, offers even less margin for error.

India's ability to tackle spin has raised questions. Despite depth and power, the side has continued to show discomfort against spin in the middle overs.

Strike rotation has stalled at key phases, forcing batters into high-risk options rather than controlled accumulation.

On a ground where totals can quickly spiral beyond 350, those quiet overs can decisively tilt the momentum.

Much of the spotlight will be on Rohit Sharma, who is enduring a lean run in this series. His ultra-aggressive approach at the top has been a defining feature of India's recent ODI philosophy, but repeated early dismissals has added a bit of pressure.

Virat Kohli, meanwhile, remains the fulcrum around which India's ODI batting revolves.

With India's next 50-over assignment for senior players likely to come in July during the tour of England, the fans would hope for another RoKo show.

The choice between Nitish Kumar Reddy and Ayush Badoni is effectively a debate between depth and control.

Reddy adds seam-bowling insurance, though used sparingly, and late-innings power, while Badoni offers a tighter technique against spin and composure in the middle overs.

The case for including left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh also gains weight at Indore, where variations rather than raw pace often determines success.

Arshdeep's ability to swing the new ball, attack the stumps and execute yorkers at the death offers India a different tactical dimension, particularly against New Zealand's largely right-handed top and middle-order.

His inclusion would also reduce the burden on the spinners in the middle and late phases, allowing India to rely more on pace-off deliveries, wide yorkers and hard lengths—methods better suited at Holkar Stadium than spin.

The challenge lies in whom he replaces. Mohammed Siraj's new-ball role makes him difficult to leave out. The most likely trade-off would be a spinner or a seam-bowling all-rounder, depending on conditions and batting depth.

KL Rahul's role is one area where clarity already exists. His returns at number five underline the value of keeping him in that position rather than pushing him down to six, where his ability to manage tempo and rebuild under pressure is diluted.

New Zealand has oodles of confidence and clarity. Mitchell's dominance, supported by Devon Conway, has reflected the Black Caps' ability to identify match-ups and execute without overreach.

LIVE 1:30 PM, STAR SPORTS NETWORK

FINAL SHOWDOWN

ODIs at Holkar Stadium

Average 1st innings total	Won by team batting 1st	Won by team chasing
332	5	2

India's record in ODIs at Holkar Stadium

Matches 7 Won 7 Lost 0

India's recent results in deciders of bilateral ODI series

Year	Vs	Venue	Match result	Series result
2025	SA	Visakhapatnam	Won by 9 wkts	Won 2-1
2023	SA	Paarl	Won by 78 runs	Won 2-1
2023	WI	Tarouba	Won by 200 runs	Won 2-1
2023	Aus	Chennai	Lost by 21 runs	Lost 1-2
2022	SA	Delhi	Won by 7 wkts	Won 2-1
2022	Eng	Manchester	Won by 5 wkts	Won 2-1
2021	Eng	Pune	Won by 7 runs	Won 2-1

Compiled by **Arun Gopalakrishnan**

India's Rohit Sharma, who has got out in the 20s in the two ODIs, will be hoping to sign off the series on a high against New Zealand on Sunday. PTI

Dazzling Smriti slays Capitals

RCB stay on top with fourth consecutive win

NAVI MUMBAI, PTI

Skipper Smriti Mandhana led from the front with an elegant half-century as Royal Challengers Bengaluru beat laggards Delhi Capitals by eight wickets to register their fourth win on the trot in the Women's Premier League here on Saturday.

RCB continue to lead the five-team standings, while DC are at the bottom of the table with three defeats from four matches.

Explosive opener Shafali Verma struck a fine half-century to single-handedly guide DC to 166 all out after being sent in to bat.

Shafali (62 off 41 balls, 5x4s, 4x6s) played her shots in a counterattacking display after DC were down 74 for 6.

But Shafali's effort was overshadowed by Mandhana's knock as RCB overhauled the target in 18.2 overs.

RCB didn't have the best of start to their chase, with in-form Grace Harris departing in the third over.

But thereafter, Mandhana (96 off 61 balls) and Georgia Voll (54 not out off 42 balls) held fort and shared match-winning 142 runs for the second wicket to set the platform for RCB's win with 10 balls to spare.

Mandhana was the aggressor among the duo as the left-handed opener played her shots. Voll, on the other hand, played the second fiddle.

Warriorz come good

Captain Meg Lanning and fellow Australian Phoebe Litchfield struck dominating half centuries to set up UP Warriorz's comprehensive 22-run win over defending champions Mumbai Indians.

With the win, UP Warriorz stamped their dominance over Mumbai Indians in the WPL season 4.

Brief scores: Delhi Capitals: 166 all out in 20 overs (Shafali Verma 62, Lucy Hamilton 36; Lauren Bell 3-36, Sayali Satghare 3-27, Prema Rawat 2-16) lt to Royal Challengers Bengaluru: 169/2 in 18.2 overs (Smriti Mandhana 96, Georgia Voll 54). **PoM:** Smriti Mandhana. **RCB's next match:** Gujarat Giants (19 Jan).
UP Warriorz: 187/8 in 20 overs (Meg Lanning 70, Phoebe Litchfield 61, Harleen Deol 25; Nat Sciver-Brunt 2-22, Amelia Kerr 3-28) bt Mumbai Indians: 165/6 in 20 overs (Amelia Kerr 49 n.o., Amanjot Kaur 41; Shikha Pandey 2-30) **PoM:** Meg Lanning.

Smriti Mandhana scored a brilliant 96 to power Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a comfortable eight-wicket win over Delhi Capitals in Navi Mumbai on Sunday. PTI

IN BRIEF

Mayur 'tricks in goal fest

▸ Mayur scored a hat-trick as Mysore DFA galloped Davangere DFA 8-0 in the latest group matches of the Senior Olympic State Games at Mahatma Gandhi Stadium in Tumkur on Saturday.

Results: Group B: Mysore DFA: 8 (Mayur 3rd, 8th, 32nd, Immanuel Godwin 20th, 25th, Sachidanand S 43rd, Rakshith R 50th, Darshan 60th) bt Davangere DFA: 0; Belgaum DFA: 3 (Atharv Bidye 50th, Nivaruthi Pavanoji 53rd, Ayan Salim Killedar 60th) bt Davangere DFA: 0; Mysore DFA: 3 (Sharath Singh 23rd, Immanuel Godwin J 27th, Mayur 70th) bt Shivamogga DFA: 0
Group A: Kodagu DFA: 2 (M D Eshwar 70th, 75th) bt Hassan DFA: 0; Uttara Kannada DFA: 4 (Ehaab 4th, Raja Mohammed Faheen 20th, 42nd, 53rd) bt Mandya DFA: 2 (Suman MS 1st, Santhosh Tamata 27th).

Pak TV break 232-year record

▸ A 232-year-old record has been shattered in the ongoing Presidents Trophy here, where Pakistan TV (PTV) pulled off the lowest successful defence in the history of first-class cricket, reports PTI from Karachi.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Third ODI: India vs New Zealand **(1:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1**, **JioHotstar**.

VHT final: Vidarbha vs Saurashtra **(1:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel**, **JioHotstar**.

U-19 World Cup: New Zealand vs USA, England vs Zimbabwe, West Indies vs Afghanistan **(1:00 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **Jio Hotstar**.

Cooch Behar Trophy: Gujarat vs MP, Day 2 **(9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

EPL: Wolverhampton vs Newcastle **(7:30 pm)**, Aston Villa vs Everton **(10 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports 3**, **JioHotstar**.

LaLiga: Atletico Madrid vs Alaves **(8:45 pm)**, Real Sociedad vs Barcelona **(1:30 am, Monday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

TENNIS

Australian Open: Singles 1st Round **(5:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**, **Sony LIV**.

HOCKEY

HIL: SG Pipers vs Bengal Tigers **(5 pm)**, Kalinga Lancers vs Tamil Nadu Dragons **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**, **Sony LIV**.

Battle of equals in the final

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Coming off superlative performances in the semifinals, both Vidarbha and Saurashtra will be buzzing with confidence as they lock horns in the title clash of the Vijay Hazare Trophy that promises to be a battle of wits as much as skill and temperament.

While two-time runners-up and reigning Ranji Trophy holders Vidarbha outplayed defending champions Karnataka in the opening semifinal, thanks to a fantastic 122-ball 138 from talented youngster Aman Mokhade, two-time VHT champions Saurashtra rode on a spellbinding 165 not out from Vishvaraj Jadeja to make a mockery of Punjab's 292-run target in the other last-four clash.

Although individual brilliances marked their respective semifinal triumphs, both Saurashtra and Vidarbha have reached the final purely on team performances, with several members putting their hands up at various stages. It's that collective might and team spirit that gives neither side an edge on Sunday at BCCI's Centre of Excellence. Be it batting or bowling, both the finalists are evenly matched, and even the most daring of punters may find it hard to place their best bet on who's going to lift the trophy. Take Vidarbha, who finished runners-up last season, for example. Opener Mokhade, who turned 25 on Friday, is leading the overall batting charts this season with 781 runs that includes five centuries at a superb strike rate of 111.57. Veteran Dhruv Shorey, a Delhi import, has yet again been a bankable man with 515 runs while Karnataka's R Samarth, who joined Vidarbha at the start of the season, has collected 427 runs. On the bowling front also, it has been a combined effort for Vidarbha.

New-ball bowlers Yash Thakur and Nachiket Bhute are the joint highest wicket-takers for their side with 15 scalps each, with both consistently providing early breakthroughs, while back-up pacer Darshan Nalkande too isn't very far behind with 12 wickets. Spinners Harsh Dubey and Yash Kadam have been forced to play more of a holding role, and the duo have done that job pretty well, bagging 10 and 7 wickets respectively. The story is somewhat similar for Saurashtra too. Openers Harvik Desai and Vishvaraj Jadeja are their leading scorers with 561 and 536 runs respectively, with both slamming three tons each. Middle-order batters Sammar Gajjar (430), Prerak Mankad (361) and Chirag Jani (308) have nicely chipped in whenever there has been a necessity, Saurashtra yet again bringing their team effort to the fore.

On the bowling front, Ankur Panwar has been their standout performer with 21 wickets. But Panwar's fast-bowling colleagues, Chetan Sakariya and Chirag Jani, too, have chipped in nicely with 15 and 11 wickets respectively. And in a welcome boost, Saurashtra saw the return of their star act, Jaydev Unadkat, for the semifinal which gives them a rounded look.

Most of the knockouts at CoE have been high-scoring affairs, and the final too promises to be a run-fest. Although it's a battle of equals, what gives Saurashtra the slightest of an edge is the 3-0 record they hold against Vidarbha in VHT matches. However, Vidarbha snapped a 4-0 streak against Karnataka on Thursday, and they'll be gunning for the same against Saurashtra. Something's gotta give.

Aman Mokhade (left) and Vishvaraj Jadeja, the heroes for Vidarbha and Saurashtra respectively in the semifinals, will be hoping to replicate their heroics when the two sides lock horns in the final on Sunday. PTI

LIVE 1:30 PM, STAR SPORTS

BCB asks ICC to swap T20 World Cup group with Ireland

DHAKA, PTI: The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Saturday asked the ICC to swap its national team with Ireland in Group C during the upcoming T20 World Cup in order to play in Sri Lanka instead of India.

Bangladesh are currently placed in Group C along with the West Indies, Italy, England and Nepal and are scheduled to play their matches in Kolkata and Mumbai.

Ireland are in Group B alongside Sri Lanka, Australia, Oman and Zimbabwe and their matches are scheduled in Colombo and Pallekele.

The two-member ICC team, consisting of Gaurav Saxena, General Manager, Events and Corporate Communications, and Andrew Ephgrave, General Manager, Integrity Unit, was in Dhaka to convince BCB about the security arrangements in India and to follow the original schedule.

"The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) today held a meeting with representatives of the International Cricket Council (ICC) to discuss matters relating to Bangladesh's participation in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026," said the BCB in a release after the meeting with ICC delegates.

Ephgrave attended the meeting in person but Saxena joined virtually after he failed to secure a Bangladesh visa.

"During the discussions, the BCB reiterated its formal request to the ICC to relocate Bangladesh's matches to Sri Lanka. The Board also shared the Bangladesh Government's views and concerns on safety and security of the team, Bangladeshi fans, media and other stakeholders," the BCB added.

From the BCB's side, President Mohammad Aminul Islam, Vice Presidents Md Shakawath Hossain and Faruque Ahmed, Director and Chairman of Cricket Operations Committee Nazmul Abedeen and Chief Executive Officer Nizam Uddin Chowdhury attended the meeting.

However, it is learnt that the ICC is reluctant to accept Bangladesh's demand, considering the logical constraints.

Martyn returns home from hospital

MELBOURNE, PTI: Former Australian batter Damien Martyn on Saturday returned home from hospital after recovering from an "awful" meningitis attack which he said made him realise "how fragile life is."

Martyn was taken ill on December 27 last year and had to be put in an induced coma in the intensive care unit but showed signs of recovery in the first week of January. But now the ordeal is behind him.

"Bring on 2026 ...I'm back! So happy to be home, to be able to put my feet in the sand on the beach and to start thanking all those people that reached out to me and my family in their unwavering support," Martyn wrote in an emotional note posted on his X account, accompanied by a picture of him standing on a beach.

Martyn said the painful episode taught him the transient nature of life.

"This experience has reminded me of how fragile life is, how quickly everything can change & how precious time is!"

The 54-year-old former World Cup winner also reminisced about his battle with the disease.

"On the 27th of December 2025 my life was taken out of my hands...when meningitis took over my brain, & unbeknownst to me I was placed into a paralysed coma for 8 days to help me fight this awful disease. And that I did! Fight that is!.... After being given a 50/50 chance of surviving, I came out of the induced coma 8 days later... not able to walk or talk.

"And yet 4 days after that, with the doctors in disbelief, I walked, I talked and proved to them all why I should be released from hospital to start my recovery," he stated.

"This post is A BIG thank you to ALL my family, friends and so many other people who have reached out to me! There are so many wonderful people in this world ... from paramedics (at Mermaid Waters Ambulance), doctors & nurses (at Gold Coast University Hospital) ... to family, friends and people I didn't even know."

Vihaan spins a web around Bangla

BULAWAYO (ZIMBABWE), PTI

Off-spinner Vihaan Malhotra produced a sensational spell of 4 for 14 to trigger a dramatic Bangladesh batting collapse as India pulled off an 18-run victory via the DLS method in a rain-hit Under-19 World Cup match here on Saturday.

Bangladesh, who bowled out India for 238 in a reduced 49-over contest, were firmly in control of the chase before losing eight wickets for 40 runs to lose the match from a winning position. It was India's second consecutive victory in the tournament.

Bangladesh were bowled out for 146 in 28.3 overs, well short of the revised target of 165 from 29 overs.

Players from both sides were seen exchanging handshakes and pleasantries on the field at the end of the match after both the captains avoided the customary gesture at the toss.

India now lead group B standings with four points from two matches, while Bangladesh and USA were yet to open their accounts. New Zealand are yet to begin their campaign in Group B.

Chasing a revised target of 165 from 29 overs after a second rain delay of over one hour and 30 minutes, Bangladesh were cruising at 102 for 2 after 20 overs, comfortably ahead of the DLS par score of 88.

What followed, however, was a stunning collapse engineered by Malhotra's disciplined off-spin and supported by timely strikes from the other end.

Vihaan Malhotra. X

Brief scores: India U-19: 238 all out in 48.4 overs (Vaibhav Sooryavanshi 72, Abhigyan Kundu 80, Kanishk Chouhan 28; Al Fahad 5-38, Iqbal Hossain Emon 2-45, Azizul Hakim 2-42) bt Bangladesh: 146 all out in 28.3 overs (Rifat Beg 37, Azizul Hakim 51; Khilan Patel 2-35, Vihaan Malhotra 4-14). **PoM:** Vihaan Malhotra. **India's next match:** New Zealand (Jan 24).

United paint Manchester red

MANCHESTER, AFP

Michael Carrick's Manchester United beat Manchester City 2-0 on Saturday, dealing a huge blow to their neighbours' title hopes, as sorry Tottenham slipped to defeat against relegation-threatened West Ham.

Liverpool were held to a 1-1 draw by lowly Burnley while Liam Rosenior celebrated his first league win in charge of Chelsea.

The early result at a bouncing Old Trafford left Pep Guardiola's City six points behind Arsenal, who could extend their lead when they visit struggling Nottingham Forest in the late kick-off match.

Former United midfielder Carrick was the man in the hot seat after being appointed as manager of the Red Devils until the end of the campaign following the sacking Ruben Amorim.

Carrick, who was also briefly United's caretaker manager in 2021, said ahead of his first game that there was still "magic" at United and his team put on a memorable show on home turf. Second-half goals from Bryan Mbeumo and Patrick Dorgu capped a dominant display by United, who have had to play second fiddle to neighbours City for more than a decade.

Result: Manchester United: 2 (Mbeumo65th, Dorgu 76th) bt Manchester City: 0; Chelsea: 2 (Pedro 26th, Palmer 76th) bt Brentford: 0; Leeds: 1 (Nmecha 90th+1) drew with Fulham: 0; Liverpool: 1 (Wirtz 42nd) drew with Burnley: 1 (Edwards 65th); Sunderland: 2 (Lee Fee 33rd, Brobbey 71st) bt Crystal Palace: 1 (Pino 30th); Tottenham: 1 (Romero 64th) lt to West Ham: 2 (Summerville 15th, Wilson 90th+3).

Bryan Mbeumo (left) and Bruno Fernandes.

Madrid win

Angry Real Madrid fans jeered their own team before they went on to beat Levante 2-0 in La Liga on Saturday to record new coach Alvaro Arbeloa's first win at the helm.

Result: Real Madrid: 2 (Mbappe 58th pen, Asencio 65th) bt Levante: 0.

EMPIRE OF THE MIND

Trump's properties: The unravelling of a real estate president

Gurucharan Gollerkeri
The former civil servant enjoys traversing the myriad spaces of ideas, thinkers, and books

During his first term, two US journalists reportedly interviewed Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago for a book they were researching on his first presidency. Towards the end, they asked an unusual question: why did he want to buy Greenland? Trump's response was revealing in its simplicity. He liked making deals. That was what he was good at. When pressed on why such an idea did not occur to others, he replied that he was a real estate developer; if handed a map, he would instinctively point to the prime properties and want to acquire them. At the time, the remark was treated as a curiosity – another eccentric aside in an unconventional presidency. In retrospect, it reads less like a joke and more like a governing philosophy.

In his second term, the metaphor has hardened into intent. After Venezuela, Greenland has re-emerged not as a speculative purchase but as an object of strategic desire. The Panama Canal may be next. Senior aides have spoken openly of a world where power determines outcomes and restraint is a luxury. The language is blunt: sovereignty is secondary; strength is decisive. What once sounded like a developer's boast now manifests as a doctrine. The world order is no longer approached as statesmanship shaped by history, law, or diplomacy. Trump thinks like a developer-deal maker surveying land – assessing location, leverage, and value. In that worldview, territory is not sacred; it is underoptimised. Borders are not inviolable; they are negotiable. Resistance is an obstacle to be overcome, not a legitimacy to be respected. The danger is not merely rhetorical. The modern international order – however flawed – rests on a fragile consensus: that borders cannot be changed by force, that sovereignty is not for sale, and that power must be constrained by rules. When the most powerful state in the system begins to speak as though these principles are optional, the entire structure weakens.

For smaller states, the implications are existential. Just as ordinary citizens and local governments often find themselves helpless against land sharks backed by money and muscle, weak nations risk becoming prey in a global marketplace where might masquerades as entitlement. Strategic geography, mineral wealth, and location suddenly matter more than law, consent, or history. What makes this moment particularly unsettling is that the usual mechanisms of restraint no longer function. The United Nations Security Council is paralysed when a permanent member is the transgressor. The General Assembly can express outrage but cannot enforce compliance. Regional alliances are ineffective without the concurrence of the great powers. Diplomacy, in its classical sense, presumes shared rules; when rules are rejected, diplomacy becomes theatre rather than persuasion.

So, what can the world do when the referee is also the strongest player? The uncomfortable answer is that there is no immediate institutional remedy. Moral condemnation will not deter a power that has decided moral authority is dispensable. Legal arguments collapse in the face of vetoes. Collective security arrangements falter when their anchor state becomes unpredictable. If pushback is possible at all, it will not come from law or declarations. It will come from structure, markets, and time. The one arena where American power is substantial but not absolute is the global economy. Here, US dominance rests less on coercion than on confidence. The dollar's status as the world's reserve currency is sustained not by force, but by trust – trust in American stability, predictability, and institutional restraint. A real estate approach to geopolitics corrodes that trust.

The response, therefore, will not take the form of confrontation, but of hedging. It is already visible if one looks carefully. Trade settlements are slowly diversifying away from the dollar. Central banks are adjusting reserve compositions. Alternative financial and payment systems – once dismissed as symbolic – are being quietly developed. None of this amounts to rebellion. It is insurance against volatility. Similarly, strategic autonomy is becoming a global preoccupation. States are reducing dependency in critical domains – energy, defence procurement, technology, supply chains. Exposure is being managed. This is not ideological resistance; it is risk management.

The real peril of dealing with a real estate president is not that he wants to take territory. It is that he treats the world as a collection of assets rather than a community of peoples. In doing so, he accelerates a transition already underway: from a world organised around American leadership to one organised around American unpredictability. Small countries will suffer first, just as small landowners do. But they will also adapt – through coalitions, diversification, and cautious disengagement. The map will not be redrawn overnight. It will be redrawn slowly, through the withdrawal of consent.

Empires do not collapse when they are challenged. They collapse when others stop believing in them. That, perhaps, is the most enduring principle of all.

STATE, MARKET, SOCIETY

Who is the encroacher, really?

By some estimates, there is a shortage of more than 15 million dwelling units across urban India. People in our fast-growing cities and towns need places to live, but there aren't enough buildings coming up to house them. This scarcity is not uniformly distributed across income groups. Instead, most of the shortage is in affordable homes. The working poor cannot even find places to rent, let alone buy a home with over two or three decades of savings.

Naturally, they are desperate. If you've got mouths to feed and not a lot of money, you'll take whatever shelter you can find. And on cue, there are lots of not-so-scrupulous builders and property owners who know that if they put up a building illegally, there will be plenty of takers for it. This is now a flourishing industry, counting nearly 100 million people as customers.

Governments choose to ignore this because otherwise they would be forced to come up with better options. PG accommodations, for example, are supposed to adhere to occupancy norms designed to ensure the safety of residents. But many of those businesses would not be viable if they adhered to the norms, just as many schools, clinics, and other facilities would be forced to shut if they had to meet all the regulations. Necessity has become the mother of illegality.

Every once in a while, a fire or a building collapse will draw attention to this charade, but apart from pulling up the owner of that particular building, there is no effort to do anything different. Those who put up these structures accept the risks. They are betting that the State will not carry out large-scale demolitions and evictions. It's a safe bet; why do buildings need a valid property ID if their occupants have voter IDs? Election logic is enough to keep everyone looking away from the problem.

The shortage that sustains the illegalities is by design. Master plans favour ownership rather than renting. They assume that people will be living in single-family homes with adequate space per person, natural light, breathable air, safe water, and so on. These assumptions steer most land towards high-end residential and commercial uses, reserving minimal amounts for lower-income groups. But ignoring the poor doesn't make them disappear; it forces them to break laws to survive. By the wording of the law, millions of people are now 'encroachers', even though systemic failures in affordable housing supply have left them with no alternative.

Ashwin Mahesh
Social technologist and entrepreneur, founder of Mapunity and co-founder, Lithium, wakes up with hope for the city and society, goes to bed with a sigh, repeats cycle
@ashwinmahesh

From here, the problem compounds. Occasionally and unpredictably, governments will decide to act against one group of such encroachers, demolishing their homes and casting them out onto the street. Rather than acknowledge land use biases and shortages, the *sarkar* finds it simpler to blame the victims. The State that readily says "they should not be there" has not bothered to ask, and answer, where they should be instead.

Add to this the ongoing identity wars in our politics. By labelling a group of victims as outsiders, the focus is diverted from the failures of state governments. Language, religion, nationality, caste... There are many ways in which homeless people can be told that their fate is the result of their identity. Each time we dismiss one set of victims by pointing to their identity, our indifference to all of their fates rises.

There is an irony in this, or perhaps we should see it as an explanation. So many of the politicians run real estate businesses, but they cannot solve the shortage of buildings. So many of them run colleges, too, with similar shortcomings in that sector. Running a business in a particular industry has become a motivation to induce scarcity in it and then seek windfall profits from it. This is evidently a conflict of interest, but it goes on anyway.

There are solutions. Cities around the world have created numerous examples we could easily follow – reserving large tracts of land for rental housing, setting aside at least a third of the land to house the poor, and issuing building permits proportionately to serve each income group. None of this is rocket science; it's a combination of common sense and compassion.

The real encroachers are those who have trespassed on the idea of human dignity, depriving so many Indians of a fair chance for a better life. The poor themselves lack the agency to tackle this imposition. It is up to us, the others whose homes seem to rise perpetually in value, to ask whether, in the very act of securing our assets and financial futures, we are also inextricably buying into the intolerable imposition that so many others face.

GADFLY

The missing grey in our collective memory

Akshaye Khanna is an enigmatic actor in mainstream Hindi cinema, a little like Abhay Deol. Over time, both have seemed to care little for attention, found a yen to vanish from public sight and tended to restrain their cinematic ancestries in an industry whose byword is nepotism. Khanna has dazzled in *Dhurandhar*, which this writer watched, and knew instantly that the storyline wouldn't click without stereotyping the 'other side', sticking to the metaphorical 'black-and-white' of villains and heroes, and the lip-service of some 'grey' thrown into the mix. There was a time when one could dare to say and show more complex things. That looks bygone now.

Yet Akshaye Khanna is an actor I've admired for long, and watching him took me back to the monsoon of 2007, when he essayed one of his finest acts, as Harilal, the son of M K Gandhi in *Gandhi, My Father*. The film delves into the vexed relationship between a man who'd become the father of the nation, and his firstborn. Viewed from the son's vantage, M K Gandhi, for all his revolutionary idealism to free India and the human soul (including the imperial soul) crushing under colonialism, comes across as an insensitive parent, selfish in utilising his eldest born for his experiments with truth. Harilal, like his father, aspires for a British education, but the latter scotches his dreams. Growing up crushed and broken, Harilal, who has almost been used as an unwilling prototype of the future *satyagrahi*, takes to drink, meat, turns wayward, as the Indian freedom movement takes off. His father disassociates with him.

A year after watching it, I took a stab at Gandhi's writing. Notwithstanding my several disagreements with him, I couldn't help being struck at that early moment in *My Experiments With Truth*, when he confesses lusting for Kasturba, the night his father is dying. The moment is wracked with guilt, shame, and horror at what he'd done. Gandhi calls it his "double shame". What contemporary politician, public figure, anywhere in the world, would commit to confessing their most shameful behaviours, on the page? At that moment, prima facie, Gandhi knew he was anything but a saint and was telling us so. Actor Anil Kapoor produced a film that could have every chance of some interest pocket seeking to stall it. It didn't, and Hindi cinema is richer for it.

Rahul Jayaram
teaches at the School of Film, Media and Creative Arts, R V University, Bengaluru
@rahjayaram

Some events of late have been bothersome; they've pushed your writer to commit a whole column on them. The quality of our collective remembering is taking a hammering. Even if it seems simplistic, reckon with this contrast. Hollywood, in particular, has a strong tradition of cinema on real-life figures that are layered, unshy, and gritty. *Raging Bull, Walk the Line, Bohemian Rhapsody, Ray, The Aviator, Milk, Capote, Nixon*, and Malcolm X are some classic biopics on major American personalities, who are rarely fully good or bad. Such figures wilfully mess one's relationship with the past, and yet find a buy-in from producers, actors, writers, often. Some time ago, I watched another actor I admire, Pankaj Tripathi, essay Atal Bihari Vajpayee in *Main Atal Hoon*, in one of the poorest, most flattering biopics. One hopes it doesn't discourage a more unflinching future celluloid attempt on him.

Check again on how we remember. An icon as Dharmendra passes away, and the encomia follow. Yes, they capture his pre-Partition life; that first train travel from Punjab to Bombay; the upright man in his early black-and-white roles; the close second to Rajesh Khanna and Amitabh Bachchan at their pomp; the transition to comedy and action in the 1970s and early 1980s. And what after? Like his peers, Dharmendra (Bachchan too, surely) did a midden of middling films for a decade, before acceding to cinematic old age, in an era that film historians now reckon as the nadir of mainstream Hindi cinema.

In our collective popular memory, the greys, the wrinkles, the shame, the failures, the letdowns, the disappointments, the betrayals, the duplicities, and the evasions find little mention. A public life is often framed as invariably linear, congruent, and steady. It's a waltz ad nauseam, and it calcifies the quality of arts and expression. The unwillingness to perceive the messiness of our past (and present) besmirches the quality and veracity of our remembering.

JUDGMENT DAY

Game, set, prison.

On July 7, 1985, in London, Boris Becker won Wimbledon at the age of seventeen. On April 29, 2022, at Southwark Crown Court, London, Becker was sent to prison for thirty months. As a law professor, I am used to reading cases, but *R v Becker* is more poignant than most cases I have read, for it's not just a case but a fall from grace, and I cannot but engage with this case as a fan. I grew up watching Becker vault across courts like a man possessed, and to then read about his criminal conviction was a jolt to the senses. I have done jury duty previously at the Southwark Crown Court, where Becker was convicted and sentenced, which gives me a more vivid idea of what he might have gone through. The Southwark Crown Court is unremarkable in its appearance, but behind its walls, it hides many a tale of misfeasance and criminality. Unlike in India, where jury trials are no longer held, the United Kingdom continues with its system of judging a person by his peers. Boris' peers decided he was guilty.

R v Becker was a criminal conviction for a wrong in a domain the public usually does not associate with crime and prisons: insolvency law. Once a person is declared bankrupt, he can be sentenced to jail time for a variety of offences: for concealing his assets, for not disclosing all his assets, and for transferring his assets to others without permission. Becker was convicted of all of the above transgressions. He had a history with the law. In 2002, he was convicted of tax evasion in Germany but escaped jail time.

Once he was convicted, there was a separate proceeding for sentencing. Judge Deborah Taylor gave an eight-page order that, in a crisp, understated but firm tone, laid out the criteria for sentencing, which depended on the severity of the criminal's culpability and the extent of harm the criminal had caused. The judge was quite severe on Becker, stating that "whilst I accept the humiliation you have felt as a result of these proceedings, there has been no humility". Becker did not exhibit any humility because, as he explains in his latest memoir, *Inside*, he didn't think he was doing anything wrong by using the assets from his bankruptcy estate for the benefit of his ex-wives and his children. This, precisely, is the reason why people should be wary of insolvency law. Once it kicks in, ignorance is no longer bliss.

Nigam Nuggehalli
is a law professor who thinks that the law is too important to be left to the lawyers
nsnigam@gmail.com

R v Becker is also interesting because while one usually reads a case from the outside, and in a somewhat detached fashion, here, we have a perspective from the inside, in Becker's own account of his life in prison. Becker's memoir, published last year, makes the aftermath of his criminal case come alive to his readers. As he puts it, "Wandsworth prison is just over two miles from Centre Court at Wimbledon, depending which way you go. SW19 to SW18 – a single number in it, but an impossible distance in between." He went from a posh life in Switzerland and London to a life scrubbing toilets and cleaning floors in a prison gym. It wasn't for too long, but prison can be a great leveller; Becker's memoir shows the human side of incarceration. He was a celebrity outside, but inside, he was subject to the same indignities others were subject to.

R v Becker is about insolvency law, loss of wealth, and reputation, but it is also about the rule of law. A celebrity, an all-time great of tennis, a man with connections and fame, although not much wealth, was convicted of a wrong within a short period of time and sent to prison. In India, we rarely get to see such outcomes. When I used to live in the UK, I was struck by the fuss the press made when they found out that the UK Parliamentarians had abused their allowances and expense limits. I was impressed that a former cabinet minister went to jail for lying about a speeding ticket. That the law can apply with equal rigour to people of privilege might be a hallmark of a healthy legal system, although every incarceration is not just a comeuppance but also an avoidable tragedy.

Becker's story is also a story about redemption. He went through the ordeal of prison and came back strong with a book that details his experience. *R v Becker* might be the shortest citation there is to a tragic life, but it's also the beginning of a comeback, perhaps the most memorable one we have seen from Becker so far.

CULTURE AND COSMOS

Why can't kids stop? Child anxiety in the age of digital overload

Shaifali Sandhya
is an international psychologist, former professor, and writer on culture, cosmopolitanism, and global affairs

Australia's new under-16 social-media ban sounds a blunt public-health alarm: a wired childhood harms young minds. By focusing on platforms while neglecting the deeper drivers of anxiety, the law risks confusing symptom for cause and underestimating the crisis.

Consider familiar scenarios: A nine-year-old in London sits frozen at the table, his packed backpack beside him and heart racing. In Mumbai, a mother comforts her child who fears sleeping in the dark. Despite unprecedented supervision – tracking apps, messaging, helicopter parenting – rates of child anxiety have risen sharply over the past decade, nearly doubling in some countries.

Child anxiety is among the most misunderstood mental health conditions. Its surge is attributed to a convergence of academic pressure, digital saturation, reduced unstructured play, and growing environmental precarity in the form of wars, pandemics, climate change, and political polarisation. It often appears as school refusal, panic over minor changes, unexplained physical complaints, or separation fears. Among under-16-year-olds, roughly 1 in 5 now meets criteria for clinical anxiety – 5-7 children in any classroom of 30 are grappling with anxiety. Common, impairing, and still widely misread as a child's misbehaviour.

Can the staggering anxiety be interpreted as better emotional literacy? The science proves otherwise. Anxiety levels have increased alongside the near-constant use of smartphones and screens. A clinical trial found that reducing screen use for just two weeks resulted in measurable reductions in anxiety. Two-year-olds with five hours of daily screen time use fewer words than their peers limited to under an hour. Anxiety symptoms are appearing earlier and increasing steadily among children aged 5 to 16, longitudinal population studies prove, with particularly sharp rises beginning in late childhood.

Technology itself isn't the villain. Many Silicon Valley innovators credit tinkering in digital environments to their systems thinking and resilience. Social media and short-form video, more than television or gaming, are linked to worsening attention and ADHD symptoms in pre-teens. Although the Australian ban excludes video games, children with ADHD are more susceptible to excessive gaming and online use. Equally important are the type of content, the child's developmental stage, and whether screens replace boredom.

For most parents, smartphones soothe their child, allowing them to attend family events, hang out with friends, or attend a work meeting. But this well-intentioned strategy also teaches children that anxiety is something to be avoided. Clinically, the opposite is better. Anxiety diminishes over time, not through avoidance but through exposure. When discomfort is tolerated, and catastrophe doesn't follow, the brain relearns safety: the prefrontal cortex gradually quiets the amygdala. Avoidance interrupts this learning. Technology, then, isn't the cause of anxiety. It is the most efficient emotional pacifier we have ever created.

Modern parenting often aims to erase children's discomfort. Reassurance sounds like: I'll email your teacher so you don't have to present; Let me check again that the door is locked. Each reassurance soothes temporarily but increases a child's reliance on devices or parental accommodation. In some cases, accommodation extends to premature or poorly applied ADHD diagnoses, not when diagnosis guides skill-building, but when it lowers expectations and entrenches avoidance.

Decades of research across neuroscience, education, and psychology converge on a single truth: resilience is built by enduring distress, not erasing it. If children are being conditioned by systems engineered for addiction – at a stage when impulse control is biologically immature – why are they being asked to self-regulate environments designed to defeat even adult self-control? The same attention-optimising, conflict-amplifying algorithms that distort adult behaviour are almost certainly exerting even stronger effects on children.

Tech races to extract attention faster than parents understand the risks; thus, regulations offer public-health safeguards. Governments from the UK to the EU, the US, France, and Norway are now pushing age-based restrictions, algorithmic reform, and platform accountability. India, by contrast, has no age-based social-media prohibition for minors, leaving impulse control to parents and profit-driven platforms.

For parents, to raise capable children who think, feel, and relate deeply, we must protect the delicate developmental space where those capacities grow:

1. Resisting the urge to eliminate discomfort by communicating confidence: Instead of saying, *Don't worry, I'll fix it*, say, I know it's hard. *I know you can handle it*.

2. Setting up firm, non-negotiable boundaries around technology: Device-free zones during sleep, meals, and homework are not punishment; they are developmental protections that require consistent enforcing.

3. Offer alternatives to screens. Shared reading, graphic novels, and audiobooks are bridges back to sustained attention.

Policies like Australia's remove a family's emotional pacifier; how families will handle the resulting discomfort remains to be seen. Anxiety in children often grows from a love that unintentionally communicates fear. If we want to raise capable children, the message cannot be that we will protect them from discomfort, but that we trust them to face it.

A shrine to the uncanny

Amitav Ghosh tells Savitha Karthik how his fiction engages with climate change through myth and memory. One of the most consequential literary voices of our time, he weaves his enduring concerns with ecology and inequality into his latest work, shaping the crisis through imagination and moral attention

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

What is our creative response to the most pressing crisis of our times — climate change, habitat loss, and displacement, among other such ecological concerns? It is this question that one of the most important literary figures of our times, Jnanpith Award and Erasmus Prize winner Amitav Ghosh, has consistently addressed, and followed up through his work, most recently, Ghost-Eye, his latest novel.

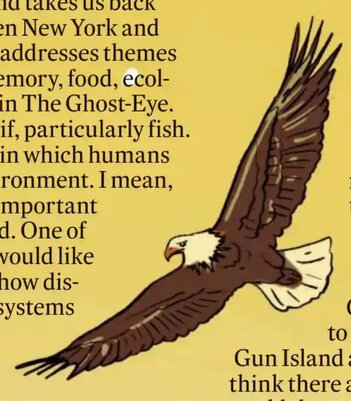
In The Great Derangement, he asks, "In a substantially altered world, when sea-level rise has swallowed the Sundarbans and made cities such as Kolkata, New York and Bangkok uninhabitable, when readers and museum-goers turn to the art and literature of our time, will they not look, first and most urgently, for trace and portents of the altered world of their inheritance."

He goes on to add, "And when they fail to find them, what can they do other than to conclude that ours was a time when most forms of art and literature were drawn into the modes of concealment that prevented people from recognising the realities of their plight?" Subsequently, Ghosh wrote Gun Island, Jungle Nama, and now, Ghost-Eye — as if to provide answers to the questions he has asked. In Bengaluru for a book tour of his latest work, he spoke with *DHoS* at length about all the themes of his latest work.

A revival of familiar themes

In The Ghost-Eye, three-year-old Varsha Gupta suddenly asks for fish in a strictly vegetarian Marwari household, leading to a series of events that take us to the Sundarbans. She remembers food and incidents of her past life, and the reader is led on a journey of many discoveries from there on.

The 'ghost-eye' here is a reference to not just the physical condition called heterochromia, where an individual has irises of different colours, but to a different way in which to perceive the world. The book, which unfolds against the backdrop of the pandemic, reprises the characters Tipu, Nilima, Piya and Dinu, among others, and takes us back and forth between New York and Calcutta. Ghosh addresses themes such as myth, memory, food, ecology and identity in The Ghost-Eye. Food is a big motif, particularly fish. "Food is the way in which humans relate to the environment. I mean, food is the most important thing in the world. One of the issues that I would like to foreground is how disrupted our food systems have become," says Ghosh.



By focusing on food, the author is also drawing our attention to aspects like invasive species and local species.

'Stranger than we think'

A big theme of Ghost-Eye is also reincarnation, and not merely as a literary device. "I have been interested in the question of reincarnation for a long time because it figures so much in our culture, films, and our history. For example, in Satyajit Ray's Sonar Kella, the same theme occurs. If you grow up in India, for us, it's just a fact of life. It's a way of connecting to the past, and a way of saying that we just don't exist on the planet, like isolated individuals, that we are preceded by complex connections. That has always interested me. It completely appends our usual material understanding of reality, as it were." "I just want to suggest that the world is much stranger than we think." The breathless pace of "incredulous" events demands big leaps of imagination on the reader's part. But the uncanny is just a way of life in Ghosh's works, a sort of running theme, starting from The Calcutta Chromosome to The Hungry Tide, Gun Island and now, Ghost-Eye. "I think there are many things in the world that we don't understand and cannot explain. That doesn't mean they don't happen. I think we have all experienced things that are very hard to explain. After all, you can't expect economists to write about those kinds of things, so who's going to talk about such things? That's how stories begin. I wanted to write about something that would be very much grounded in reality, but that's how strange things happen, isn't it?" asks Ghosh.

"Strange things", the presence of the "non-human voices" and the "environmental uncanny" are themes that Ghosh uses to challenge the Western mechanistic way of looking at not just the climate crisis, but our presence on this planet. Even in the 1996 novel, The Calcutta Chromosome, Ghosh presents "counter-science" which operates in silence, secrecy and language-less communication, as opposed to a rules and order-based Western way of thinking.

Policy matters

Talking about the way nations and policymakers look at climate change, Ghosh says, "For a while, governments in Europe and the US made a big show of being interested in climate change and tried to make policy responses. But now, they have even stopped the pretence of doing that."

What about the Global South, we ask? "We are in an unenviable position. There should be equitable use of energy across the world. I mean, climate change is fundamentally a story of inequality. Without addressing the question of inequality, it really becomes impossible to even think of any kind of progression on this." Talking of our response to the climate and environmental crisis, one wonders if science has failed us. Should it even be a "versus" situation, we ask Ghosh. "Science is a tool. It depends on political will. I mean, alternative energy systems exist. It's merely a question of scaling them up. In China, they have successfully done that, whereas in America and the West, they are going in exactly the opposite direction. So it's not science that has failed us. I would say that it's the political class that has failed us."

Is the burden on the individual, then, to cope with the biggest crisis of our times? "How can people cope individually? You and I can't build an electric grid. That has to be done collectively. The individual just tries to protect themselves and their family, which can often be a counterproductive thing."

Hope then has to come from the stories, from our ability to remember, reimagine and pay attention to the non-human voices in our midst.

A vitalist politics

In populating his fiction with Bon Bibi — the guardian spirit of the jungle, Dokkhin Rai — the tiger, Manasa Devi — the serpent goddess of the Sundarbans, or the Makara – the sea creature of Hindu mythology, Ghosh stresses his belief in vitalist politics. As he writes in The Nutmeg's Curse, "It is empathy that makes it possible for humans to understand each other's stories: this is why storytelling needs to be at the core of a global politics of vitality."

So, does he see a revival of vitalist politics? "It's already happening. I think one of the most positive developments is the Rights of Nature movement. I've even mentioned that in the book (Ghost-Eye). And the Rights of Nature movement is very much a vitalist politics. Because what they're actually saying is that a river is a person, that mountains can be sacred. And the moment they say that, what they're really doing is creating vitalist politics," explains Ghosh.

Ghost-Eye serves as a shrine to all of Ghosh's ideas and themes that are part of his earlier works.

Readers of the Ibis trilogy may recall the shrine of Deeti, the opium farmer and indentured labourer, who later turns into a venerable matriarch. In this shrine, she makes etchings on the walls of a cave to keep a record of her journeys. Ghosh seems to have done a Deeti and turned Ghost-Eye into a memory keeper.

Climate writing: Beyond dystopia

The Little Ice Age was a period of severe cooling and lasted between the 13th and late 18th to early 19th centuries. There were periods when London's River Thames froze, and frost fairs were held. If you were to look at the writing of that time, you'll find a familiar theme — printers setting up stalls and booths on the river for people visiting the fair. These serve as reminders of a time when a climate change event lasted for centuries, although people of the time didn't know it as the Little Ice Age. Most of these notes came with a footnote saying: "Printed on the Ice upon the Thames" with the date.

Climate writing in that sense is hardly a new concept — be it in the form of essays, poetry and journalism. However, it is only in recent years that climate literature, and specifically, fiction, has come to be known as a literary genre (cli-fi) and not just part of the larger science fiction genre. Although the term 'cli-fi' has come into circulation post mid-2000s, there have been novels addressing climate change, from the 19th-century Jules Verne's novel, 'The Purchase of the North Pole', to the dystopian fiction of author JG Ballard. These were followed up by authors Octavia Butler, Margaret Atwood, Kim Stanley Robinson, Barbara Kingsolver and Richard Powers, who have all written novels in the genre.

A lot of climate writing tends to highlight doomsday scenarios and apocalyptic endings. Does this then lead to climate despair — an overwhelming sense of hopelessness? Possibly. A 2021 study (published in The Lancet Planetary Health) of 10,000 young people (16 to 25 years) across 10 countries showed that 59 per cent were "very or extremely worried" about climate change and over 50 per cent "felt sad, anxious, angry, powerless, helpless and guilty".

Climate communication can also be deceptive sometimes, especially on social media platforms. Take greenwashing, for instance, which is a deceptive technique that companies, organisations and individuals use to signal their eco consciousness — and project that they care for the environment more than they actually do. It could lead to the use of vague language, buzzwords and also push concepts and products to consumers who want to be seen as eco-friendly.

This is also an offshoot of the need to be perceived as cool and well-informed about climate change. With climate fiction emerging as a popular genre, the need for writers and publishers to hop onto the bandwagon and play to the gallery (of readers) without an actual commitment could also be a pitfall.

But poetry, parables and fiction can bring hope too. We ask author Amitav Ghosh if literature can indeed serve as motivation for climate action. In an interview, the author observes, "I wouldn't normally claim that literature can be so motivating. However, in my experience, literally thousands of people tell me that my books have motivated them to take action. Even recently, I was signing books in a bookstore, and so many people came up to me and said, "Oh, you know, after reading your book, I gave up studying engineering and decided to become an activist."

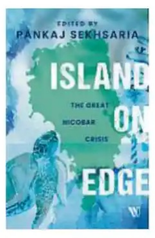
In her poem, 'Tell them', climate change activist and Marshall Islands poet Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner writes, "*tell them we don't know / of the politics / or the science /but tell them we see / what is in our own backyard.*"

Effective climate writing, whether in the form of poetry, fiction or non-fiction, can do what difficult-to-digest data can't — humanise the experience and create a feeling of empathy.

An incisive work that almost reads like a thriller, it shows how fragile ecosystems are becoming disposable lands with irreversible climate costs already emerging, writes Bhargavi S Rao

ISLAND fault lines

The book draws attention to the rich, largely intact forest ecosystems of the island, brimming with biodiversity. Seen here is an aerial view of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



ISLAND ON EDGE
Pankaj Sekhsaria (Ed)
Westland, pp 266, Rs 499

Island on Edge is an enlightening and unsettling book that helps readers understand environmental decision-making processes, including who makes decisions, who benefits, and who bears the costs. It takes the reader far from comfort, exposing how power, land, law, and climate commitments intersect in the island of Great Nicobar, in particular, and why these intersections matter far beyond the archipelago itself.

One of the book's most important contributions is showing how the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are not peripheral, but central to India's political economy, development regimes, and climate commitments. The islands lie at a moment where these logics collide with unusual intensity. The processes described will be instantly recognisable to readers familiar with mainland struggles, where landscapes are systematically denotified, reclassified, and repurposed.

(For those unaware, the Great Nicobar Island Development Project is a Rs 72,000 crore mega-infrastructure initiative on the Great Nicobar Island covering nearly 16,600 hectares. It proposes, among other things, an international transhipment port, a greenfield airport, townships, and a gas-solar-powered plant. The project was conceived by NITI Aayog.)

Reading the book alongside struggles against large infrastructure projects on the mainland, one cannot help but notice the scale of what is being proposed in Great Nicobar and the strikingly similar politics of it. The transhipment port, a greenfield airport, township, power infrastructure, and ecological re-engineering together resemble what might be called the mother of all projects. While many parts of the mainland have encountered and resisted these projects individually, here a fragile ecosystem is being overwhelmed by all of them at once.

A central thread running through the book is its dismantling of the idea that the islands are freely available lands. Again and again, the book draws attention to rich, largely intact forest ecosystems brimming with biodiversity, yet insufficiently studied, mapped, or understood. It quietly but powerfully warns that we are on the verge of irreversibly transforming landscapes without fully knowing what they contain. What stands to be lost may far exceed what is known, measured, or claimed to be compensated for.

The proposed ecological "mitigation" plans are exposed as tokenistic and deeply unscientific. They offer simplified fixes for complex ecological harm, as though loss can be neatly offset or explained away. The suggestion that coral reefs can be cut, relocated, and reassembled elsewhere reads almost like a comic turn in an otherwise grave narrative.

At times, the book reads like an ecological thriller. History, policy, and lived experiences are layered in a way that steadily builds unease, unfolding the decisions whose consequences are already perceptible. The book is gripping, as the risks are real, immediate, and irreversible.

A line from Chapter 11, "An Obit for Patai Takaru," captures this sharply: "It is our submission that, as marvellous as these measures may sound, they constitute a plan that rivals Lysenkoism in its inspired ecological hubris..."

The failure of local governance in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, as revealed in the book, is striking, despite nearly eight decades of independent India. The absence of basic infrastructure, such as schools, public health centres, reliable roads, and transport, is stark. It mirrors conditions in mainland regions, revealing a structural feature of governance that consistently ignores certain populations. Communities displaced by the 2004 tsunami, and those resettled by the state, including veterans, are once again marked for dispossession.

Past displacement, instead of greater protection, becomes a justification for further marginalisation.

The Shompen and Nicobarese tribal communities are being steadily pushed to the margins, even as ambitious "holistic development" plans disrupt their lands and lives. Their rights remain deeply undermined. New forms of control determine safety, welfare, and protection, reminding us that disasters reorganise power.

The book exposes the functioning of law not as a safeguard for justice, but as something eminently bendable. The issue is not the absence of legal frameworks, but how they are amended, reinterpreted, and implemented to favour predetermined outcomes. The environmental decision-making processes appear to be anchored less in precaution and justice than in investment priorities. There is a growing sophistication and opacity, as procedural compliance becomes a tick-box exercise, committees are compromised, and urgency and secrecy dominate, making challenges increasingly difficult. Ultimately, Island on Edge holds a mirror up to India's climate commitments. At a time when centuries-old forests function as vital carbon sinks, their destruction is deeply contradictory. In a seismically active region with frequent earthquakes, massive investments and settlement of hundreds of thousands of people reflect a risky development.

It is a must-read, as the planet warms, and inaction will only bring us closer to the unfolding, irreversible harm already underway.

THE HERITAGE SHELF

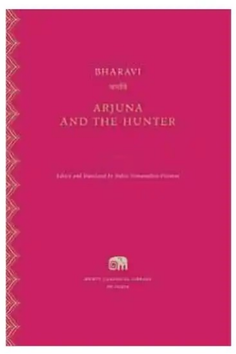
'A great poem about great things'

Mahakavyas continue to speak to us, both as works of art and as human documents addressing enduring moral concerns, writes Indira Viswanathan Peterson

What is a Mahakavya? The question preoccupied Indian literary theorists writing in the 7th-8th centuries CE as they contemplated this most prestigious among the genres of kavya, the refined literature that had arisen in the early millennium in Sanskrit and related languages, in royal courts and elite circles.

Bhamaha tells us that Mahakavya is the 'sargabandha' genre of kavya, a long composition in verse divided into sarga chapters. He adds: "It is a great poem, a poem about great things." According to Dandin, treating a narrative from history or legend, the Mahakavya delineates the rise and flourishing of a noble hero. Such a poem must include "descriptions of cities, oceans, mountains, seasons, the rising of the sun and moon, playing in pleasure parks and in water,... the delights of lovemaking,.. the birth of a son, councils of war, spies, military expeditions, battles, and the victory of the hero."

In sum, it should exalt the warrior-king and his career by covering the entire spectrum of courtly and political life. It must also treat "the fruits of the four aims of life (purushartha)," touching on the ideals of dharma, wealth and success, pleasure, and transcendence over worldly existence. Lastly, it must evoke an overarching aesthetic emotion (rasa), resonating with fundamental, powerful emotions, particularly the heroic and the erotic. Resembling the epics Ramayana and Mahabharata, from which they often draw their themes, Mahakavya poems are "epic" in their expansive scope and amplitude of vision. However, kavya literature caters for connoisseurs, and its principal concern is with aesthetic value, measured in terms of beauty, virtuosity, and elegance of form and expression, undergirded by erudition. Embodied in the concepts of figures of speech (alankara) and rasa, these are the ideals that engage literary theorists and guide reader response. Recited and discussed in assemblies and savoured in private reading, the "court" or "literary" epic is the epitome of the literary and the classical in Indian literature.



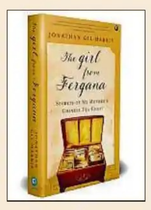
Five Mahakavyas, produced between the 4th and 12th centuries, are deemed the masterpieces of the genre: Kalidasa's The Lineage of Raghu and The Birth of Kumara, Bharavi's Arjuna and the Hunter, Magha's The Slaying of Shishupala, and Sriharsha's The Deeds of King Naishadha. Drawn to Bharavi's challenging, innovative style and to his dramatic treatment of a Mahabharata episode, I translated Arjuna for MCLI. How should one read a Mahakavya? Court epic poems are composed of short, tightly structured, usually grammatically self-contained verses, barely distinguishable from the single-verse poem (muktaka), the most popular genre of Sanskrit kavya. Each Mahakavya verse presents a single complex yet coherent image or idea, delivered in a striking style that exploits the formal and semantic richness of the Sanskrit language. Readers unravel complex, precisely calibrated relationships among grammatical structures, images, and meanings within the verse microcosm, to savour alankara, rasa, or thought.

However, Mahakavya verses should be read in the context of the descriptive and oratorical passages in which they are embedded. We savour and return to Kalidasa's descriptions of the Himalayas, and Bharavi's description of Arjuna's penance or the fiery speech of Queen Draupadi that impels the poem's action. An arena for dazzling displays of virtuosity, these set pieces are in some ways like miniature painting albums in which each painting treats a vignette or aspect of a courtly theme; but Mahakavya passages are more aptly described by analogy with the dynamic improvisatory techniques of Indian classical music, where the performer elaborates on particular melodic themes through variations of ever-increasing complexity and nuance. The Mahakavya has flourished over two millennia, across religious and other boundaries. Queens and courtesans wrote Mahakavyas. Ashvaghosha's Life of the Buddha was one of the earliest Mahakavyas, and a Kerala author recently wrote a poem on Jesus Christ. Modern Sanskrit aficionados responded to Queen Victoria's rule and the Independence and anti-caste movements with Mahakavyas. Mahakavyas continue to speak to us, both as works of art and as human documents addressing enduring aesthetic and moral concerns.

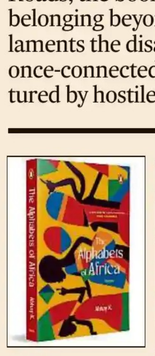
The author is Professor Emerita of Asian Studies, Mount Holyoke College, USA.

The Heritage Shelf *is a monthly column from the Murty Classical Library of India, published by Harvard University Press, presenting India's greatest literary works and the enduring traditions that shaped them.*

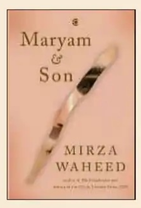
BOOKRACK



THE GIRL FROM FERGANA
Jonathan Gil Harris
Aleph, pp 344, Rs 899
Blending personal memory with the history of the Silk Roads, the book describes lives belonging beyond borders, and laments the disappearance of a once-connected world now fractured by hostile nation-states.



THE ALPHABETS OF AFRICA
Abhay K
Vintage, pp 280, Rs 499
This book is an ode to a continent that continues to define the human journey. Through time, space and memory, these poems map Africa, celebrating its vast and vibrant tapestry.



MARYAM & SON
Mirza Waheed
Context, pp 264, Rs 699
As bombs fall on Mosul, Maryam must confront the ultimate question: how does a mother grieve a child who may have done terrible things? A provocative novel of motherhood, family, desire, and the limits of knowing those we love most.

LIGHTNING KID
Viswanathan Anand
Hachette, pp 264, Rs 399
This book dives into the most dramatic moments of Anand's life and career – wins, losses, comebacks and masterstrokes – along with 64 bite-sized lessons, one for every square on the chessboard.

THE SEVENTH SWAR
Pan Macmillan, pp 200, Rs 399
When an old woman is stabbed to death in her Mumbai apartment, ex-cop-turned-private-investigator Satyadarshi expects it to be a routine murder investigation. Well, as routine as murders ever get. But the deeper she digs, the more confounding the case appears.

Lives lived between shame and sunrise

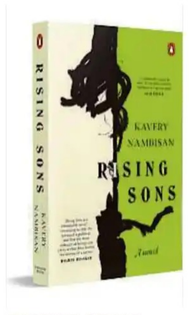
At a time when conversations around caste are often flattened into slogans or denial, this novel insists on remembering, says Gurucharan Gollerkeri

There is something compelling about Indian fiction that returns to the soil — its memory, its violence, and its stubborn hierarchies — placing ordinary lives against the tremors of national transformation. When such fiction is also shaped by a supple, idiomatic use of language, as in Kavery Nambisan, the result is especially resonant: "No fighting the British. We must ask them gently-gently to leave." "If a robber enters your home, and you request him to leave, by gently-gently leading him to the door, will he go, leaving behind the bag he just filled with your provisions?" The prose carries the cadence and rhythm of Indian speech, anchoring the novel firmly in its linguistic and cultural terrain.

Kavery Nambisan's Rising Sons, set in a small village near Mysuru between the 1920s and 1940s, is a quiet yet searing account of the making of modern India — not through the grand speeches of history, but through the fragile interiors of a family trapped between caste, patriarchy, shame, and awakening. At the centre is Devaraya, a Brahmin patriarch whose pursuit of wealth and respectability masks deep fragility. His carefully curated identity begins to fissure from the opening line, when he announces — half-proud, half-playful — that he has "two sons and one-and-a-half daughters." The "half" is Chinni, the adopted daughter whose presence inside a caste-sanctified household is both an affront to orthodoxy and a reminder that affection in such worlds is always conditional. Nambisan builds her narrative on this foundational crack.

The author evokes the hamlet of Kesarugattu with tender fidelity. (PIC FOR REPRESENTATION)

The hamlet of Kesarugattu is evoked with tender fidelity: dusty lanes, temple bells, the drawing of water from wells, gossip thick as humidity, and the invisible yet unbreakable lines of caste that arrange bodies and destinies. Colonial rule hums in the background, but the more immediate and intimate oppressor is caste itself. Ancestral dominance and the fear of social humiliation govern every gesture inside and outside Devaraya's house. Working in a bank as a peon in Mysuru while running a modest money-lending shop back home, Devaraya embodies the dangerous intersection of caste pride and capitalist ambition. His public face projects ritual purity; his private life is riddled with moral compromise. In a paraphrased confrontation, his younger son Anna articulates the novel's central fracture: you speak of purity, but conceal your own stains — what kind of honour demands lies? It is a quiet but devastating rebellion, marking the first collapse of the old order.



RISING SONS
Kavery Nambisan
Penguin, pp 384, Rs 599

The revelation of Devaraya's hidden past — one that undermines the very caste purity he venerates — shatters the world he has built. The family collapses under the weight of shame; one son disappears; Devaraya is disgraced and imprisoned; the village that once deferred to him turns away with vindictive satisfaction. Inside the house, silence becomes a weapon. In another paraphrased exchange, Gowru, his long-suffering wife, speaks with restrained fury accumulated over decades: a home built on fear cannot survive a single gust of truth. The line is quiet on the page but detonates through the moral architecture of the novel.

From the family's ruins, a new consciousness emerges. Anna is drawn into the freedom struggle. His rebellion is both political and personal — a rejection of shame as a mechanism of control. In a moment that captures the novel's fusion of private and national liberation, Anna tells his father that if the nation must free itself, individuals must first confront older chains than those imposed by the British. Chinni, meanwhile, becomes the emotional heart of the story. Experiencing progressive hearing loss, dismissed by society and bound by deep affection to Anna, she embodies the resilience of the marginalised. Her silence is not weakness; it is resistance.

One of the novel's notable achievements is its portrayal of how colonial capitalism intersects with caste hierarchy. In a sharply staged scene, a village priest — the former custodian of ritual prestige — visits the lending shop to deposit his money, bargaining for interest with head bowed. Devaraya's paraphrased reflection is telling: even gods have begun to bow before Mammon. With this, Nambisan captures an India shifting uneasily from spiritual hierarchy to monetary hierarchy, neither offering dignity to the powerless.

Nambisan writes with felicity and restraint. Some readers may find the pace measured, but the emotional intelligence and historical density more than compensate. At a time when conversations around caste are often flattened into slogans or denial, Rising Sons insists on remembering.

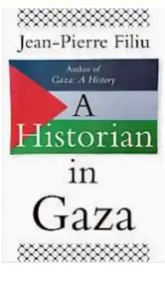
READ OF THE WEEK

Jean-Pierre Filiu, acclaimed historian of Gaza, is intimately familiar with the land's people and places; he speaks the local dialect. But nothing prepared him for what he encountered there in December 2024. This is his unforgettable, unbearably intimate account of one month in a place shattered by Israel's all-out war.

When the historian returned to Gaza, he arrived under circumstances unimaginably different from his many past visits since 1980: only a limited number of convoys were allowed into the Strip, and he was one of the few humanitarians able to enter, this time by night. He remained inside for 33 days, and emerged determined to bear witness to the devastation — to the Gazans fighting simply to live, every single day.

Filiu's haunting portrait of a land betrayed is a grim work of war reportage, documented with the acuity of a historian and a lyrical narrative of human suffering and human dignity.

Jean-Pierre Filiu is Professor of Middle East Studies at Sciences Po and a former visiting professor at Columbia and Georgetown Universities. His books include The Middle East: A Political History.



Czech this out!

Trdelník or the chimney cake, found all over Prague, is made by baking dough over fire. The cake, much like Czech cuisine, is a blend of European influences, writes Chandreyi Bandyopadhyay

Trdelník with a fine dusting of powdered sugar.

The whiff of cinnamon and baked dough tantalises anyone walking the lanes of Old Town in Prague. Step into any bakery here and you will find trdelník, or chimney cake—made with dough on a wooden stick, baked to perfection with mascarpone on top of a fire spit. Sometimes luscious berries or ice cream adorn the chimney top. The word trdelník itself comes from the Slovak word 'trdlo', the wooden tool used to wrap the dough around, giving the cake its traditional hollow shape.

Spit-cooked cakes are found across Central and Eastern Europe—from Hungary to Romania—reflecting an ancient way of baking dough over fire. Part of trdelník's charm lies in that primal allure—the warmth, smoke, and slow spin of the spit.

But, trdelník isn't quite Czech at all, and yet it is everywhere in Prague. According to some locals, it's a sugar-dusted illusion that tourists devour, mistaking it for a centuries-old local delicacy. They, however, insist it's more marketing than heritage. Yet, despite its "Old Bohemian" branding in Gothic script almost at every shop, trdelník is a modern creation for tourists, blending nostalgia with clever reinvention.

An origin story of the wildly popular Prague must-have, is that it takes after a similar pastry from Transylvania (now Romania). A 15th-century manuscript in Germany mentions a similar pastry, and by 1784, it appeared in a Transylvanian cookbook. From there, it journeyed west through Hungary—where it's known as kürtöskalács—before settling in Slovakia's town of Skalica. The legend says a Hungarian general named József Gvadányi brought a cook to Skalica who imported (or stole, accounts vary) a recipe for this traditional 'chimney cake' in ancient times. Only later, thanks to Czechoslovakia's shared borders, did the trdelník rise again—this time as a Czech "classic" born of clever marketing reinvention.

Spa wafers are popular in the town of Karlovy Vary in the Czech Republic.

Evolution of Czech cuisine

Czech cuisine is a mosaic of European influences, shaped by centuries of shifting empires and borders—a cuisine as layered and improvised as the nation's story. Tourism in Prague truly took off after 1989, following the fall of the Communist regime and the peaceful split from Slovakia in 1993. The nation's 2004 entry into the EU placed Prague firmly at the heart of Europe, and in the imagination of millions of travellers. As tourism grew, so did the demand for a tangible "past", something that felt authentically Czech. Food became the easiest way to serve that sense of history. Trdelník fits perfectly into this patchwork as an edible emblem of heritage for curious visitors. Its invented authenticity reflects the Czechs' capacity to adapt, endure, and reinvent—qualities that define the nation more than any single dish ever could.

Rolled and layered love

The country's love for rolled desserts goes beyond Prague. From Horické trubicky—delicate wafer rolls with sweet fillings to Lázenské oplatky—spa wafers from Karlovy Vary with hazelnut or cinnamon filling, Czechia's wafer heritage is rich. In the town of Horice in the Hradec Králové region, the making of the tube wafer stands as a graceful blend of precision and tradition. Sheets of delicate wafer dough are cut with modern machines for perfect uniformity, yet it's the artisans' light, swift hands that brings them to life. Each wafer is deftly rolled around a slender wooden stick while still warm, forming airy, crisp cylinders with a gentle firmness.

In spa towns like Karlovy Vary, Lázenské oplatky, or the spa wafers are crafted with quiet artistry. Thin layers of dough are baked to a delicate blush, their circular forms pressed with ornate patterns recalling 19th-century elegance. The essence, however, remains in the baker's touch—brushing them with hazelnut, vanilla, or chocolate filling, before sealing them gently to fuse the layers in perfect symmetry.

The result is a crisp, fragrant wafer that captures both the finesse of Czech confectionery and the slow, indulgent rhythm of spa-town life.

Best trdelník in Prague

- Choose bakeries where the dough is rolled and baked fresh in front of you – it's the best sign of quality.
- Skip any place that reheats its trdelník; freshness is key to getting that perfect crisp, airy texture.
- Follow the locals – even though trdelník isn't traditionally Czech, their presence usually signals a spot worth visiting.
- Steer clear of overly gimmicky or over-the-top versions; authentic bakeries always offer plain or classic styles too.

Traditional chimney cake on a Prague street.

Trdelník for the Indian palate

- Think of trdelník like the jalebi's European cousin—made fresh before your eyes, hot, crisp, and irresistibly sugary, but rolled around a spit instead of piped into oil. It is quite different from store bought wafers layered with jelly.
- Its caramelised crust and airy centre are closer in texture to chiroti (from Karnataka) or a rolled Bengali patishapta, but much drier and crunchier.
- Like Indian sweets at melas and festivals, it's a performance as much as a dessert—you watch it sizzle, turn, and be dusted in sugar before being topped with soft serve ice cream and dazzles.
- Spa wafers, often served warm in the Czech republic could remind one of a nankhatai or soan papdi—in their delicate crumble and nostalgic sweetness, though thinner and pressed with elegant designs but evoking the familiarity felt in our tea shops.
- Cream-filled wafer biscuits or 'cream rolls' are a near cousin in form and crunch, but not quite similar in texture.

COOKING DILEMMA

When to add **sugar** into cake batter

Sugar plays a key role in not just adding flavour but also in bringing in that much-needed texture, apart from colour and moisture. Add more sugar, and your cake can get too brown or burnt. Add less sugar, and the cake ends up being dry and hard.

The idea is to add just the right amount of sugar so your cake hits the spot, in terms of colour, moisture and texture. However, different types of cakes demand different ratios, with a light, spongy cake often requiring you to follow a 1:1:1:1 ratio of sugar, fat, egg and flour.

Add sugar with butter at the beginning, when you are making a batter. The air bubbles that are created in the process of beating the two ingredients ensures that the cake turns out light.

Caramelisation on the surface of the cake also turns out better if the batter or cake mix has sugar that is mixed thoroughly and evenly.

Ensure that the butter and sugar mix is fluffy, and then add other ingredients, alternating between flour and salt (dry ingredients), and drops of vanilla and milk (wet ingredients).

*(**Cooking Dilemma** answers that one question which pops up when you are about to try out a recipe but didn't know whom to ask.)*

Wellness

Chronic kidney disease of uncertain aetiology is not associated with causes like hypertension, diabetes, or other known illnesses. Avoiding heat exposure is important, write Prof Swaminathan Sundararaman and Dr Praveen Kumar Kaudlay

Risks of unexplained kidney disease

Unexplained kidney disease among agricultural workers has become a significant public health challenge across continents, mirroring patterns first observed in Central America and later in South Asia.

In the 1990s, doctors in Central America reported numerous sugarcane workers with end-stage kidney disease, initially in El Salvador. Studies soon revealed high CKD (chronic kidney disease) rates among agricultural workers from Guatemala to Panama, often without typical causes like diabetes or hypertension.

HEALTH IN THE HEADLINES

Around the same time, Sri Lankan physicians described similar CKD among middle-aged male rice paddy workers. Over the past two decades, Uddanam in Andhra Pradesh has shown comparable prevalence among coconut, cashew, and rice farmers.

Kidney disease in Uddanam, which dates to the 1980s, was first formally reported at the 2012 World Congress of Nephrology in Hong Kong. According to a study by Dr Ravi Raju Tatapudi, the rates of incidence were much higher than those in other Indian regions. Most patients had no traditional risk factors, and biopsies showed tubular inflammation and damage—now termed chronic kidney disease of unknown aetiology (CKDu).

In 2012, Dr Y J Anupama (Shivamogga, Karnataka) found CKD in one in 20 villagers across three villages—40 per cent without diabetes or hypertension—suggesting CKDu. Similar findings have since appeared in Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha.

The George Institute for Global Health, led by Prof Vivekanand Jha, has since studied disease burden, comorbidities, mortality, and community perception. Prof Prabir Roy-Chaudhury, Co-Director of the UNC Kidney Centre and President of the American Society of Nephrology, calls it a "twofold tragedy" affecting young, impoverished workers with no known cause or cure. Dr Sreejith Parameswaran (JIPMER, Puducherry) observes that one-third of patients with hypokalemic paralysis (characterised by acute muscle weakness) showed CKDu features, indicating its long-standing presence in Tamil Nadu. This aligns with Dr Mani's 1993 report, describing chronic interstitial nephritis—now recognised as CKDu—as a frequent incidental finding that is still common at JIPMER.

Certain villages were found to be affected, while adjacent ones remained unaffected, as noted by Dr Manikandanesan Sakthivel (Isaac Centre for Public Health, IISc, Bengaluru).To assess global trends, the DEGREE Collaborative Study analysed kidney function in 60,964 people across 43 sites in 14 countries. The study found rural men in Uddanam and northwest Nicaragua were most affected.

Heat stress

Dr Nathan Raines (Beth Israel Deaconess, USA) emphasises the strong evidence linking occupational heat stress to CKDu in certain Central American populations. Research by the La Isla Network found that preventing heat stress among sugarcane cutters reduces both acute kidney injury (AKI) and acute kidney disease (AKD), which are associated with chronic kidney dysfunction. Separately, Boston University found that a genetic variant associated with heat-stress resilience protects against CKDu in Nicaraguans, further supporting the notion that heat is a key driver.

A study in Odisha found 14 per cent of farmers had chronic kidney disease linked to heat stress and dehydration. Between 2017 and 2020, a survey of Tamil Nadu salt pans revealed that nearly 90 per cent of workers faced unsafe heat conditions and inadequate hydration. Professor Ben Caplin (UCL, London) opines that heat stress can exacerbate any pre-existing kidney diseases. With heatwaves becoming increasingly frequent in India, the impact of heat on kidney health is becoming increasingly important, says Dr Vivekanand Jha.

Agrochemicals

The high prevalence of CKDu in farming communities has raised concerns about agrochemicals, such as glyphosate and Paraquat. Dr Shuchi Anand (Stanford University) and Dr Nishantha Nanayakkara (Kandy, Sri Lanka) observed faster CKDu progression among farmers relying on wells, where toxins concentrate, compared with those using a different water source, such as RO water. Although heavy metals can harm the kidneys, no clear link to CKDu has been established. Dr Anupama's study in Shivamogga also found no association.

Other theories, including infections like leptospirosis, lack solid evidence. Genetic factors are proposed but unproven. The disease may start before or at birth, as low-birth-weight children have fewer nephrons to handle environmental stress—making this hypothesis relevant in countries with high low-birth-weight rates.

Lack of early detection

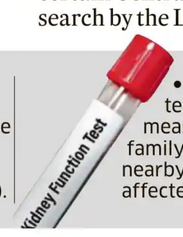
Since CKDu is not associated with common causes such as hypertension, diabetes, or other known illnesses, its progression is primarily monitored through regular assessment of kidney function using estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR). Professor Caplin notes the absence of reliable biomarkers for early detection. He cautions that relying on elevated creatinine levels for surveillance delays recognition, as exposure-related causes and important causal exposures may occur months or years before eGFR becomes abnormal. Creatinine, moreover, is an imperfect indicator of GFR. Regardless, early avoidance of nephrotoxic drugs and heat exposure remains essential.

The NIH-funded CURE Research Consortium unites experts to identify causes and risk factors driving CKDu in agricultural communities. Prof Prabhdeep Kaur (Isaac Centre for Public Health, IISc, Bengaluru) stresses the need for sustained research funding on chronic diseases in India. Prof Prabir advocates a multifaceted approach integrating geographic, environmental, and multiomic (a holistic approach to biology) analyses. Dr Sreejith notes multiple causal factors and the need for interdisciplinary collaboration.

(Prof. Swaminathan Sundararaman is Inaugural Chair and Professor Department of Nephrology, Division of Medical Sciences, IISc, Bengaluru. Dr Praveen Kumar Kaudlay is a consultant haemato-oncologist with a special interest in stem cell transplantation at Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, UK. He can be reached at praveen.kaudlay1@nhs.net.)

Take care of your kidneys

- Adequate hydration: 250ml/hour water per hour of work with a temperature above 32°C.
- Avoid intake of high fructose beverages and NSAIDs (pain killers).



- Get a blood test for eGFR measurement if family members or the nearby community are affected by CKD.
- Manage your diabetes and hypertension well in consultation with your physician.
- Exercise every day and maintain a healthy weight.
- Avoid unnecessary health supplements. Early referral to a nephrologist if your eGFR is found to be low or if any abnormalities are detected on urine analysis.

MYTHBUSTER

Are cold showers good for you?

TEJASHWINI MADYAL

Cold showers or ice baths seem to have taken over wellness conversations. The narratives promote a heightened sense of calm, claim to boost skin collagen, making it smooth, and suggest increased mental resilience and reduced inflammation. However, this is partly true and often overstated. A 2025 report published in the peer-reviewed journal, PLOS One, rejects the idea that a cold bath is a universal, instant health hack. The report notes that 11 studies were conducted among 3,177 people. Cold-water immersion (CWI) acts like a stress-training tool and not a relaxation therapy, it adds.

The benefits are delayed, context-dependent, and modest. The moment the skin meets cold, the sympathetic nervous system, which is responsible for fight-or-flight responses, switches on. Heart rate rises, breathing sharpens, and stress hormones such as norepinephrine are released. This is the same system the body activates under pressure, whether physical or psychological.

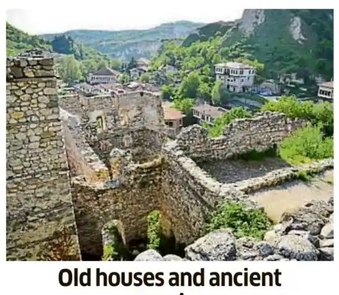
The PLOS One report showed that inflammation actually increased after exposure, indicating that cold water acts as a stress signal rather than a calming one. The body reacts as if something demanding just happened. Stress relief was observed after 12 hours of cold-water immersion; however, no significant changes were seen after 24 hours.

There is no evidence that cold-water immersion definitively improves mood or builds mental resilience. What people may describe as resilience may instead be familiarity. That distinction is important, because cold-water immersion is often prescribed as a remedy for anxiety, burnout, and emotional regulation. Cold causes of narrowing blood vessels near the surface to conserve heat. This makes the skin appear firmer and tighter in the moment, often mistaken for improved skin health. The PLOS One report states that there is limited high-quality evidence on the impacts of CWI.

*(**Mythbuster** picks up a popular wellness belief and examines if it is true, false, or maybe lies somewhere in between.)*

Mystique of MELNIK

A small town in Bulgaria with barely 200 residents, Melnik, home to sand pyramids, cobbled streets and a medieval touch, is sheer magic, discovers Neeta Lal



Old houses and ancient remains.

Melnik's natural sand pyramids.
(PHOTOS BY AUTHOR)

It's hard to believe that a town of barely 200 residents could hold so much beauty, history, and wine. But that's UNESCO-listed Melnik—Europe's smallest town and one of Bulgaria's grandest surprises. Tucked into the sunbaked foothills of the Pirin Mountains near the Greek border, Melnik feels both forgotten and eternal, carved by wind, wine, and whispered legend.

The drive from Sofia wound through pine-scented passes before the landscape began to glow gold. Suddenly, the Melnik pyramids appeared—vast sand formations rising like molten spires against the sky. Up to 100 meters high, these jagged, flame-coloured towers are nature's answer to Egypt's monuments.

Scientists call them "erosion pyramids," shaped by wind and rain over millions of years. Standing before them, though, they felt too deliberate, as if ancient gods—not geology—had built them.

Inside Melnik's Museum of Wine.

Crossing a creaky bridge into town, I found Melnik's cobbled main street—a storybook lane lined with vine-draped houses, rose-scented shops, and wine cellars. A silver-haired woman waved me into her souvenir shop. "Dobredoshli!" she beamed. Her shelves overflowed with rose oil, embroidered linens, and tiny amphorae once used for wine. She pressed a bottle into my hand. "Taste this—Shiroka Melnishka Loza. It grows only here."

Native wine

She wasn't exaggerating. The Broadleaf Melnik vine, native to this valley, doesn't thrive anywhere else in the world. It yields rich, peppery reds once coveted by kings—Tsar Nicholas II ordered it for his palace, and Winston Churchill reportedly had 500 litres shipped yearly. Melnik's dry soil and fierce sun make wines that are spicy, earthy, and unforgettable.

Following her advice, I wandered to the Kordopulov House, the town's pride and relic of its merchant past. Built in 1754, it's a showpiece of the Bulgarian Revival—wide eaves, carved ceilings, and secret corridors once used to dodge Ottoman tax collectors. My guide Stefan led me downstairs into a vast 200-meter wine cellar carved into sandstone. "The tunnels stay cool all year," he said, running a hand along the barrels. "The Kordopulovs traded with Venice and Vienna long before refrigeration."

He poured me a glass of deep ruby red. It tasted of dark fruit and woodsmoke—a sip of liquid history. From the house's balcony, the view swept across red-tiled roofs to the pyramids blazing under the afternoon sun. Hard to believe that in the 17th century, this now-quiet hamlet was home to 25,000 people, a bustling hub of traders dealing in silk, tobacco, and wine.

As dusk settled, I dined at a cozy taverna where the owner, Ivan, served kavarma—a clay-baked pork stew—with homemade bread and fiery rakia. "Everything you see, we grow," he said proudly. As the pyramids turned indigo, locals began singing a folk ballad, voices rising in harmony with the crickets. I couldn't understand the words, but the emotion was unmistakable—part melancholy, part joy, all belonging.

Stunning pyramids

The next morning, I laced up my shoes to hike among the pyramids. The trail wound upward through thyme-scented scrub and crumbling sandstone. Each turn revealed new shapes—ridges, cones, and natural towers, shifting in hue from ochre to rose. From the top, the view was spellbinding: vineyards spread like green lace below, and beyond them, the white domes of the Rozhen Monastery, one of Bulgaria's oldest, peeked through the pines.

The wind whistled through the gullies, and I picked up a handful of fine, warm sand. Locals say the pyramids are still alive—eroding and reforming each year. Time here is tangible; you can feel it sliding between your fingers.

Melnik's quiet streets hum with history. Ivy-covered houses lean into each other like gossiping elders. Cats laze on Ottoman-era fountains. Atop the cliffs, ruins of a 13th-century fortress recall Despot Alexius Slav, the medieval ruler who made Melnik his capital. Once a prosperous trading post on the route between the Aegean and the Danube, the town declined after the Balkan Wars, its population drifting away until barely a few dozen families remained. Yet the past lingers in the air—sweet, smoky, stubborn.

Before leaving, I revisited the shop where my journey had begun. The silver-haired woman was still there, arranging jars of rose honey. When I told her I was heading back to Sofia, she smiled knowingly. "People always say that," she said. "But Melnik keeps them."

Microcosm of world's treasures

Driving out, I looked one last time at the pyramids blazing gold against the sky. Vineyards shimmered, and the air smelled of sunbaked sand and ripe grapes. The road twisted upward, giving me a final glimpse of rooftops glowing in the late-day light—a postcard view I knew would stay with me.

Melnik may be small, but it holds multitudes: a living museum of geology, history, and human warmth. Its sand pyramids rival Egypt's for grandeur, its wines rival France's for soul, and its people, with their laughter and open arms, rival anywhere in the world for heart.

As the mountains swallowed the road behind me, I realised the truth of the shopkeeper's words. Melnik doesn't just charm visitors—it claims them. Its magic seeps under your skin, like the slow warmth of good wine. And once you've tasted both, you never really leave.

DO'S & DON'TS

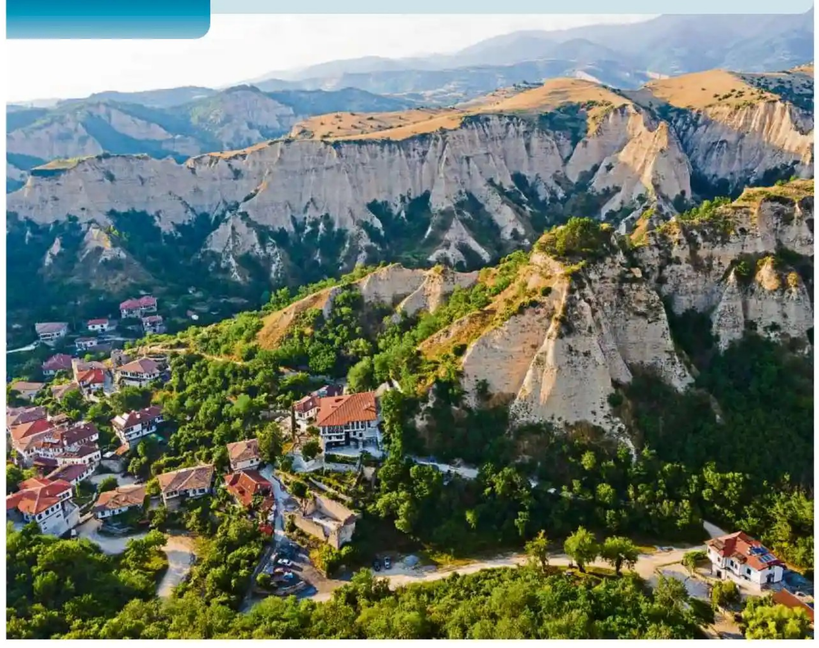
Bulgaria is known for its rich heritage and culture, and is home to many historical landmarks. What's more, it also offers great natural beauty, from the Black Sea coastline to the mountains. If you are planning a trip, keep these aspects in mind:

Do's

- **It's always nice** to familiarise yourself with a few phrases and words in Cyrillic, which is the spoken language here.
- **Be mindful of** gestures. In Bulgaria, a nod actually signals no, while a headshake means yes.
- **Stay alert in** busy public places such as bus terminals and markets.
- **Carry both cash** (Lev is the currency and Euro is also accepted) and cards for transactions.
- **Remove your shoes** before entering a host's home.

Don'ts

- **When you enter** a home or establishment, avoid shaking hands over the threshold as it is considered bad luck. Even handing over things across the threshold is a no-no.
- **Public displays of** affection are not welcome.
- **Don't bargain because** it is considered rude.
- **Football is a big part** of Bulgarian identity so if you'd like to attend a local match, avoid making flippant comments or taking sides. Be respectful of locals.



The trail to the pyramids winds through crumbling sandstone and scrub.

ADVERTORIAL

Advertorial

Centuries in a Bite

Neil Patil
Founder, COO & CTO
Veena World
neil@veenaworld.com

...I have come to see sushi as more than food. It's a lesson in mindfulness. In a world obsessed with speed and excess, sushi reminds us that beauty often lies in restraint; that doing less, with care and intention, can mean everything....

Walk into a restaurant in Mumbai, Delhi, or Bengaluru today, and sushi no longer feels exotic. It appears neatly arranged on elegant platters, tucked into takeaway boxes, or arriving at your doorstep via a delivery app. A cuisine that once seemed distant and elite has quietly become part of India's everyday dining culture.

Not long ago, sushi was largely confined to fine-dining spaces such as Wasabi by Morimoto at The Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Mumbai or select five-star hotels. Today, it thrives in neighbourhood cafés, Japanese bistros, and cloud kitchens across Indian cities. It's a story that stretches across centuries; one that began as a humble preservation technique and evolved into a culinary art defined by precision, balance, and respect for nature.

Every piece of sushi carries within it layers of history, craftsmanship, and innovation. To truly appreciate it, we must look beyond the plate, back to its origins, its many forms, the culture that shaped it, and the remarkable journey it makes to reach us, fresh and pristine, even in India.

Origins and Evolution

Like many great culinary traditions, sushi began not in luxury but necessity. Long before refrigeration, people needed ways to preserve fish. Around the 4th century in Southeast Asia, fish was packed in rice and salt and left to ferment. This method, known as 'Narezushi', allowed fish to remain edible for months. The rice was discarded; only the fermented fish was eaten.

When this technique reached Japan, it began to transform. Over time, the Japanese started consuming the rice along with the fish, marking the first step toward modern sushi. By the Muromachi period (14th–16th centuries), fermentation time shortened, and vinegar was introduced to replicate the sourness of ageing. This gave rise to 'Haya-Zushi', or 'Fast Sushi', which could be enjoyed fresh.

The real breakthrough came during the Edo period (1603–1867), when Tokyo, then Edo, was a bustling city of merchants and labourers. It was here that Hanaya Yohei introduced 'Nigiri-Zushi' – a small mound of vinegared rice topped with a slice of fish. Designed to be eaten quickly, even while standing, nigiri was essentially Japan's first fast food.

From riverside street stalls, sushi slowly evolved into a refined culinary art. What began as a practical snack would eventually become the centrepiece of omakase counters and Michelin-starred restaurants around the world.

The Many Faces of Sushi

At first glance, sushi seems deceptively simple: rice and fish. But step closer and an entire universe unfolds. Each form reflects Japanese values – minimalism, seasonality, and the belief that even everyday food deserves care and beauty.

Nigiri is the purest expression of sushi: hand-pressed rice topped with seafood. There are no elaborate sauces to mask imperfections. Everything depends on balance – rice temperature, pressure of the fingers, freshness of the fish. Once street food, nigiri is now considered the highest test of a sushi chef's skill.

Maki brings creativity into play. Rice and fillings wrapped in nori and sliced into pieces, maki ranges from simple 'Hosomaki' to elaborate 'Futomaki'. The globally popular 'Uramaki', or inside-out roll, helped sushi travel beyond Japan's borders.

Sashimi, though not technically sushi, lies at its heart. Thin slices of raw fish served simply with wasabi and soy sauce demand precision and respect for the ingredient. Every cut matters.

Chirashi, meaning 'scattered', is sushi rice topped with assorted sashimi and vegetables. Colourful and celebratory, it symbolises abundance and is often eaten during special occasions.

Inari-zushi offers comfort rather than elegance: sweet fried tofu pockets filled with rice. Humble and homely, it's common in lunchboxes and picnics.

Oshizushi, or pressed sushi from Osaka, is one of the oldest styles. Rice and toppings are layered in wooden moulds and sliced into neat blocks, once ideal for travellers before refrigeration.

Together, these forms show sushi's extraordinary range – from artful minimalism to warm familiarity – while remaining rooted in tradition.

From Ocean to Plate

Freshness defines sushi. That clean, oceanic taste comes from an intricate global system operating with near-perfect precision. Behind every slice of tuna or salmon lies a complex journey involving fishermen, auctioneers, logistics experts, and chefs.

In Japan, prized seafood is auctioned at Tokyo's Toyosu Market before dawn. Buyers with decades-long relationships select the finest catch – tuna, snapper, uni, within minutes. Soon after, the fish is cleaned, iced, and dispatched. In today's world, that destination could be anywhere from Paris to Mumbai.

The secret lies in the cold chain: a tightly controlled system that maintains precise temperatures from sea to plate. Fish travels in chilled containers, overnight cargo flights, refrigerated warehouses, and temperature-monitored trucks. Even a minor lapse can affect quality.

Take salmon. Much of the sushi-grade salmon consumed in India comes from Norway. Harvested in cold waters, it is filleted, vacuum-packed, and shipped within hours. With frequent flights connecting Europe to Asia, it can reach Indian kitchens in under 48 hours – an astonishing journey from Arctic seas to your chopsticks.

This seamless network has allowed sushi to flourish in places where eating raw fish once seemed unlikely. Technology and trust have made it possible for chefs in India to serve seafood that rivals the best in Tokyo.

Sushi's Cultural Significance

In Japan, sushi reflects core cultural values: simplicity, harmony, seasonality, and reverence for craft. A traditional sushi-ya feels almost meditative. The 'Itamae', or sushi chef, works in quiet focus, every movement deliberate.

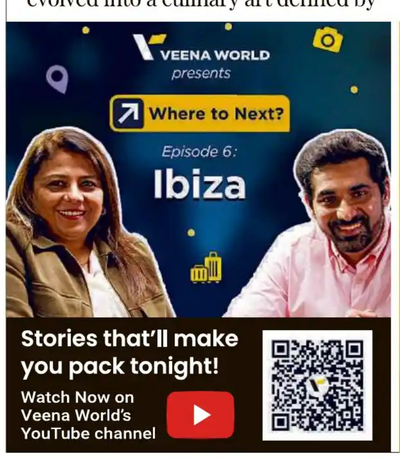
Becoming an itamae takes years. Apprentices begin with rice – learning temperature, texture, and timing – long before they touch fish. Only after mastering the basics are they allowed to form nigiri. It's not just training; it's respect.

Sushi is deeply seasonal. Chefs choose fish at its peak, guided by the concept of 'Shun'. Even plateware and rice temperature are carefully considered to create balance.

Traditionally, sushi marks milestones – celebrations, family gatherings, important meetings. Globally, it has become a cultural bridge. The California Roll may not be traditional, but it introduced millions to Japanese cuisine. Sushi continues to evolve, just as it always has.

After multiple trips to Japan, I have come to see sushi as more than food. It's a lesson in mindfulness. In a world obsessed with speed and excess, sushi reminds us that beauty often lies in restraint; that doing less, with care and intention, can mean everything.

So the next time you lift a piece of sushi to your lips, pause. You are not just tasting fish or vegetables and rice. You are tasting centuries of tradition, carried across oceans and time – one perfect bite at a time.

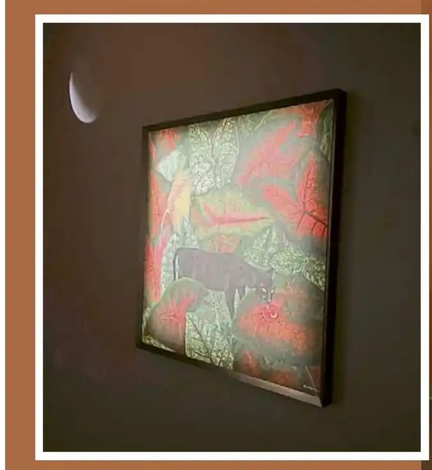


Best of Japan (7D) Mar 15,19,23 Apr 4 279-317K (Ex-Bengaluru) 207K-247K (J&L)	**Wonders of Japan** (9D) Mar 31, Apr 20,27 317K-362K(Ex-Bengaluru) 262K-307K (J&L)	**Marvels of Japan** - 11 Days Mar 23,28, Apr 4, 11 377K-422K (Ex-Bengaluru) 322K-367K (J&L)	**Japan** 13D/17D Apr 26/Apr 15 482K-662K (Ex-Bengaluru) 427K-607K (J&L)
All of Japan 17 Days Apr 15 637000 (Ex-Bengaluru)	**Women's Spl Seniors' Japan** 7D-May 14/Apr 6 302K-312K(Ex-Bengaluru) 247K-257K (J&L)	**Japan Alpine Route** 10 Days - Apr 15 402K-412K (Ex-Bengaluru) 347K-357K (J&L)	**Japan Korea** (10D) Mar 17,Apr 17 362K-387K (Ex-Bengaluru) 307K-332K (J&L)

Email: travel@veenaworld.com | veenaworld.com
Toll-Free: 1800 313 5555 Bengaluru: Jayanagar - 887 997 2217
Indiranagar - 887 997 9500

Until April, all Veena World sales offices will remain open on Sundays as well.

'Still Life with Fish' by K G Subramanyan.



'Darkness and Light' by Ratheesh K.

A view of the gallery.

Cats prowl, pad, and preen across art in an exhibition powered by **B N Goswamy**'s scholarship and the enduring mischief of felines, writes **Asra Mavad**

Whiskered signatures on canvas

Across the world, cats pad through art history with velvet paws. In ancient Egypt, Bastet purrs from temple walls, sleek and divine. Japanese ukiyo-e prints celebrate mischievous bakeneko, tails twitching with magic. Art in West Asia hides felines in tilework and poetry, elegant and aloof. European painters, from Chardin to Manet, nap cats beside bread and the bourgeoisie. Modern memes crown them emperors of the internet — especially, the orange cats of the world.

Everywhere, artists agree: cats sit, stare, judge, and somehow become immortal. They knock over time, chase light, curl into symbols, and leave whiskered signatures on culture worldwide.

An ongoing exhibition in Bengaluru pays homage to these very creatures. The Many Lives of the Cat — a delightfully eclectic exhibition that opened in November at the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP).

On until March 29, the exhibition takes as its subject a much-loved muse: the cat. But this is no ordinary pet retrospective. At once scholarly, playful, historical, and deeply human, the show uses the feline to unravel Indian visual culture across centuries and styles, all while paying heartfelt tribute to the legendary art historian Professor BN Goswamy.

Matchbox label for H A Gaffer, 19th century.

Goswamy was not, by his own admission, a cat lover. Yet in his final published book, 'The Indian Cat: Stories, Paintings, Poetry, and Proverbs', he explored the animal's appearances in Indian art, literature, poetry and proverbs with wit and warmth. For MAP, the book became the conceptual heartbeat of the exhibition. "It felt important to honour that relationship," the show's curator, Khushi Bansal, explains — both to celebrate Goswamy's monumental scholarship and to invite visitors into Indian art history through something universally familiar.

ON THE PALETTE

Walking through the exhibition feels like tiptoeing into a whimsical, whiskered dream. The gallery greets you with cats lounging, prowling, and plotting across centuries of Indian art, from delicate miniature paintings to bold modern canvases and even quirky matchbox covers.

What distinguishes The Many Lives of the Cat is its thematic boldness. The exhibition doesn't simply present works featuring cats; it stages a narrative arc across distinct sections, each tracing a different life of the feline figure. From the affectionate companion curled on a lap to the mischievous marauder knocking textiles askew, from political satire to mythic wildness, the cat becomes a lens through which India's visual and social histories come into focus.

Works by artists such as Jamini Roy, K G Subramanyan, Chandana Hore, and Bhupendra Baghel show cats in states of grace, and subsequently in glorious absurdity.

A personal favourite of mine is a painting by Ratheesh T. Rendered in a moody, immersive palette, the painting captures a black panther gliding through a dense thicket of oversized leaves, their veins etched in deep greens and bruised reds. The foliage closes in, creating a near-surreal jungle that feels both intimate and foreboding. With its luminous yellow eyes and taut, deliberate stance, the panther embodies quiet power and vigilance, anchoring the composition in a moment of suspended tension and untamed wilderness. A faint lunar reflection, hovering at the edge of the frame, heightens the sense of mystery.

In Mughal and Rajput miniatures, cats often appear alongside parrots and other creatures; sometimes they loom large, not merely as witnesses to palace life but as active participants in visual storytelling, the curator points out. In one piece, a feline's oversized parrot companion evokes unexpected spatial play, hinting at nuanced relationships between form, perspective, and narrative.

'Woman, Cat' by Chandana Hore.

The final section of the exhibition is dedicated to the 'Fierce Cat' — the predator. It ranges from textile souvenirs gifted in post-Partition India, hinting at turbulent histories, to narratives drawn from myth and folklore where cats and tigers intersect with stories of heroism and divine intervention. A hand-painted Ganjifa card deck, traditionally used in gameplay, evokes mythic battles between tiger and lion, layered with symbolic meaning.

Throughout, Goswamy's voice accompanies the works. Extended labels quote passages from his book, offering interpretive context and playful reflections on cats' many roles, from poetic subject to philosophical figure. Khushi points out that this juxtaposition of scholarly text and visual imagery allows visitors to absorb a bit of art history simply by looking — and, at times, laughing— making the exhibition unexpectedly accessible.

The Many Lives of the Cat reminds us that even the most familiar figures in our lives, those that leap into our laps and our hearts, carry deeper histories and meanings in the realm of art.

ROOTING FOR NATURE

The snake-slayer with lightning reflexes

Are they immune to snake venom? Or are mongooses just agile and able to dodge snake strikes effortlessly? Ramya Coushik finds out

When Covid had the world in a bind, we spent extended periods of time at Navilu Kaadu. So did our caretaker's goats, every time we left for Bengaluru, as we discovered much later!

When we got wind of the intrusion, we set about finding proof. We browsed through the archives of CCTV footage (that we had neglected to monitor) and watched in dismay as the goats chomped, tore, tugged at and stripped our plants bare all day long.

At twilight, the goats tamely followed our errant caretaker, swinging bellies distended from an entire day's gorging, as he led his menagerie back to their hold in the village. This flagrant trespassing ended up altering Navilu Kaadu permanently. The turd from the interloping goats introduced seeds of a dreaded invasive into the land — Subabul or river tamarind (*Leucaena leucocephala*), notorious for edging out native species, which has since become our worst nightmare as we try to restore biodiversity on Navilu Kaadu.

Even as we watched the goat horror show, we stumbled upon something unexpected and exciting — our cameras had captured a wild mammal taking a stroll by our porch — an Indian grey mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsii*). With around six-odd snake species inhabiting our wild grassland, can their nemesis be far behind?

While the rest of the animal kingdom treads cautiously around venomous snakes, mongooses rarely miss a chance to pick fights with and inflict skull-crushing bites on the deadliest of serpents.

Are they immune to snake venom? Or are mongooses just agile and able to dodge snake strikes effortlessly?

Remarkable physiological adaptations and lightning-quick reflexes make mongooses formidable serpent predators. Let's decode the biology behind their seeming inviolability against snake venom.

Mongooses aren't immune to the venoms of all species of snakes, but they can stave off the lethal consequences of neurotoxic venom from snakes of the Elapidae family, such as cobras and kraits, to an extent.

In the normal course, the neurotoxins in the venom of Elapid snakes target proteins called acetylcholine receptors that transmit signals between nerve cells to aid muscle action. The neurotoxins bind these protein receptors, jamming nerve signals, which in turn triggers fatal paralysis. In mongooses, the acetylcholine receptors have evolved to prevent the neurotoxins from binding to them, weakening the effect of the venom on muscle cells. This adaptation is less effective against viper venoms, which are cytotoxic and hemotoxic and cause tissue damage and internal bleeding.

Even with the adaptation, a large dose of lethal venom delivered with precision can prove fatal to any valiant mongoose.

A taxidermy mount of the Indian grey mongoose in the Natural History Museum of Geneva.

The *Haavu-Mungusi* (snake-mongoose) rivalry has been the stuff of legend for aeons. As a little girl, I teared up watching the brilliantly picturised song, an apologue of sorts, '*Keliddu Sullaaga-bahudu...*' from the Kannada flick Rama Lakshmana about a pet mongoose guarding an infant. The alert mongoose takes down a spectacled cobra as it slithers too close to the baby's cradle. In what turns out to be a case of mistaken identity, the heroic mongoose tragically ends up paying for the good turn, with its life.

There are other fables too, the most famous being Rikki-Tikki-Tavi by Rudyard Kipling about an English family's pet mongoose, which foils the insidious plans of a pair of cobras to wipe out the human family. I have a bone to pick, though, about snakes being vilified in film and fiction as scheming, vengeful creatures, for merely acting in self-defense. That's a story for another day.

The 19th-century British naturalist Robert Armitage Sterndale writes with affection about 'Pips,' his pet mongoose, in his book 'Natural History of the Mammalia of India and Ceylon,' observing that domesticated mongooses could show as much attachment as a dog.

From the tales and the memoir, it appears mongooses were popular household pets back in the day, not least for their snake-catching qualities.

Indian grey mongooses are native to the Indian subcontinent. They don coarse grey fur and are diurnal mammals that forage and hunt during the day. While they relish snakes, mongooses also enjoy an eclectic diet of tubers, berries, fruits, frogs, grasshoppers, lizards, insects, birds, scorpions and fish.

These plucky snake slayers are poached for their fur to make paint brushes. Is there anything that avaricious humans don't hanker after...

The Indian grey mongoose. PICS COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Rooting For Nature *is a monthly column on an off-kilter urban family's trysts with nature on a natural farm. The author runs Green Goobé, a sustainable venture. Reach her at bluejaydiaries@gmail.com or @ramyacoushik on Instagram.*

EYE ON DESIGN

Rugs shaped by the land and rewilded

Two designers reimagine rugs as tactile landscapes, sculpting silk and wool into forms that quietly urge softer ways of living, writes Sowmya Putran

Rugs have long been both functional surfaces and objects of beauty. Designers and sisters Saina and Kanika Takkar have recently unveiled a contemporary collection that repositions the rug to resemble a natural landscape through shifts in texture.

Each piece is hand-tufted over time, allowing texture and form to lead while decorative motifs take a step back. The technique uses a stretched fabric base into which the yarn is pushed using a special tool. The artisans control the density, height, and direction of the yarn, shaping the rug as they work, letting some areas rise while others sink. The rugs are made from plant-based silks. When the designers want a pronounced high-low effect, they use New Zealand wool as a base and layer silk on top to add height and reflect the light.

Contours of the land

The land-inspired rugs mix greys, sandy tones, and beiges, with slightly different pile heights to give them real texture and depth. Dense areas with tightly packed yarn feel solid like firm earth. Loam is inspired by the fertile plains, using dense silk and subtle colour variations to capture the richness of the earth.

Dune evokes a desert landscape through subtle high-low pile patterns. Beige, ochre, and ivory coloured silk yarns are mixed to create the undulating forms and shifting shadows of desert ridges. The slightly raised threads add the element of windblown sand.

Korra shows roots breaking through rock. Sections with high and low areas suggest the gentle dips of the stone. The irregular lines trace how roots spread, while the deep green threads signal vegetation.

Human influence enters through architectural forms. Arch uses an outline formed by using subtle differences in pile heights. The arch sits raised against a flatter background. Fine linear cuts mark edges and divisions. The surface feels architectural, but worn in, like an old opening softened by use. Quoin is also a nod to architecture; the idea comes from the simple act of sitting on a garden wall. The surface is divided into block-like sections using contrasting pile heights. Edges are softened rather than sharp. The air-inspired rugs focus more on colour blending, thread arrangement, and pile sculpting. Aeris feels airy because the colours are pale and blend gradually.

A few of the unique rugs in the collection. PICS COURTESY: ARDHI LOOMS

For Lunara, the designers create depth through sculpted threads cut at different heights: taller threads catch the light and cast tiny shadows, while shorter threads stay flat, creating a floating effect that invokes the feeling of moving clouds.

Ravyn shifts the mood entirely. It captures a storm in motion through sharp colour contrasts and directional carving of the yarn. After the rug is tufted, the surface is cut by hand in deliberate lines, guiding the pile in specific directions.

This carving creates channels and ridges that break up the surface, making colour appear fractured and restless. The varying pile heights disrupt uniformity, giving the rug an unsettled energy, like a sky on the verge of breaking.

Other rugs in the collection take inspiration from water. Ebbra captures the shoreline just after a wave pulls back. Thick wool marks the darker, wet parts of the ground, while the silk marks the lighter, drying areas. Beige forms the base, with muted greens taken from coastal surroundings. Selume shows water flowing between stones. Sandy threads form the main surface, with pale lilac threads mixed in to create highlights.

Nature is never shown in its literal form in these designs. "Trees are absent, but their colours remain. Water isn't shown directly, but the design makes you feel it's there," notes Saina. Mirelle and Mireya take an even subtler approach. Instead of visible movement, they rely on tonal variation and small changes in pile heights to suggest dampness.

On Mirelle, the pile is mostly low and even, creating a plush surface, evoking the feel of raincloud drifting downward. Mireya has sections of higher and lower pile, tracing the imprints water leaves as it moves across the ground.

The collection doesn't spell everything out. There are no images to interpret or obvious references to spot. Its meaning comes from seeing and using the rugs. In a world where design is often immediate and obvious, these rugs ask you to slow down and pay attention, quietly challenging contemporary design.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com

Classifieds

More value, more impact

I SIRI
Sandalwood Farmlands

Sandalwood
Farmland

Offer Price Rs. 79 Per Sft

90 mins drive from
BANGALORE
International Airport

BEST WEEKEND GETAWAYS

MONTHLY EMI Rs.6999/-

READY FOR REGISTRATION
BANK LOANS AVBL

FLEXIBLE PAYMENT
OPTION AVAILABLE

CALL FOR MORE DETAILS : 6366549024

DEEPASHREE ENCLAVE

Nelamangala
'E' KHATA Sites

Attached to Nelamangala - Tumkur Road

5 Minutes Drive from Madavara Metro Station

ಪ್ರತಿ ಸೈಟಿಗೂ 'E Khata' ಲಭ್ಯವಿದೆ

- 2 km from the National Highway
- 1 KM to RMC YARD
- Near BGS School & College
- Next to Golden Farm Resort
- 500 meters to the Cricket Stadium

Ready for Registration | Bank Loan Available

Call for more details. 96064 42859

Site Sizes 30x40, 30x50

New project by Saptagiri Promoters and Developers

Saptagiri PROMOTERS & DEVELOPERS

Launching 24th & 25th Jan.

Saptagiri Silver Leaf PREMIUM PLOTS

Near Big Banyan Tree

5 mins. from Kempegowda Layout

UPCOMING NEW PROJECT

BMRDA Approved Sites @ Nelamangala

SAPTHAGIRI
MS FORTUNE CITY

Nelamangala to Chikka madurai Temple Road

Ready for Registration & Construction

Bank Loan Facility

9686 49 49 49

For bookings and more details:

Call: 7026 11 88 99, 7026 00 44 99

Classifieds

More value, more impact

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Sites

Banashankari

"BANASHANKARI 6TH_STAGE 4th_Block`50x80 North`West corner and`50x80 North`facing 7th-Block and`30x40 West`facing 2nd-Block and`40x60 3rd-Block East`facing near`BDA Complex. Call: 9845146725/ 9741466369"

BANASHANKARI 6TH Stage 10th Block 40X60 West Facing Price. 2.34 CR. Genuine Buyers: 9148914809/ 9993959099

FOREST VIEW BANASHANKARI 6th, 2nd Block 30x40 East Facing with Borewell. Brokers Excuse. 98458-59217/ 9845609477.

BANASHANKARI 6TH Stage, 9th Block, 50x80, East opposite to School Rs. 8500/-Sqft Negotiable. Owner:- 9886052148.

Bannerghatta Road

AKSHAYANAGARA 3562 SQFT A KATHA 11000/- PANDURANGA NAGARA 40x60 NF 21000/- VIJAYABANK COLONY 40x60 15000/- Negotiable: 9449655947

Basaweshwaranagar

BASAVESHWARANAGAR 30X45 North facing site/plots Sadhashivnagar 74x45 west old house, clear titles. 9060406731.

Hosur Road

14,200 SQ ft plot for sale Basapura village south Bangalore call Ganesh 9448477152 for info

Hebbal

40X60
West Face SITE Sale
BBMP B KATHA
Nr Manyata Techpark
Near MANYATA TECHPARK Back Gate No.5(200m) P&T Layout, Rachenahalli. Ct: 9483114740/ 9962377428

HEBBAL 30X35 House Sale, Ground 1 BHK, Two Carparking, 1st 2 BHK, 2nd 2 BHK 9845623970/ 9739400838

Intl Airport Road

SALE JADE garden behind ITC airport road. 2 adjacent sites. 4700Sft each. Available each or both the sites. Clear titles. Rs.7000 per Sft. Cheque payment. Arun 9845077299.

Jakkur

JAKKUR MCECHS 1ST PHASE 40x60 west A Katha 15,500/-, ARKAVATI 20x30, 30x40, MANYATHA 30x40 9535658860

J P Nagar

"J.P.NAGAR, SRINIDHI_LAYOUT 30x51 Residential Site, East_Facing, BBMP A_Katha, Full White. Direct Owner: 9845249799/ 9845088449"

Kempegowda Layout

NADAPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT BDA SITES SELLING/ BUYING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. Genuine Buyers Call: 9632146784, 9731162167.

KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Commercial/ Residential BDA Site for Sale 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 Contact Kumar 9945119449

Mysore Road

"CONTACT FOR Selling/ Buying BMRDA Approved Sites Near Hejjala, Wonderla Gate, Eagelton Golf Resort. 9845178335"

Out-Station

PENUKONDA NEAR KIA Car-Factory, Madakasira Highway 50X100 (4-Nos) Sites for Sale, Residencial Converted, Gated Community, 499/-PSft. Contact: 8310681025

Peenya

"SITE FOR_SALE 2260 Sqft East Facing in_Peenya 2nd_Stage, DC.Conversion, BBMP 'A`KHATHA Rs.7000/- Per Sqft. Contact: 9353057779"

Vijayanagar

SITE FOR SALE
60x90
RPC LAYOUT
VIJAYANAGAR
SALE: 60X90 West Facing
Only Genuine Buyers Contact:
6363250343
9845038343

Vishweshwariah Layout

BDA SITE SALE VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 2ND BLOCK 40X60 NORTH FACE, NEAR 100FT ROAD, GOOD LOCATION CONTACT: 8892901567

DIRECT OWNER 30x40 BDA Site Sale VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 40ft Road, Full Developed Area, ₹11000/-. 9742681666

SITE SALE 40x60, West, BDA 40 Feet Road, Rs 14000/- Negotiable, Vishweshwaraiah Layout Contact 9611577666

20X30 BDA_SITE For_Sale East_Facing Allottee_Site Vishveshwaraiah Layout 6th Block. Contact: 9901057383

'DIRECT OWNER' 20x30 N/F Vishveswaraiah Layout 2nd Block, Near Kommagatta, Fully Developed Area: 8496030007/ 8310885235

BDA SITE SALE 40x60 EAST FACING 5TH BLOCK SMV LAYOUT RATE 3.20CR NEGOTIABLE CONTACT: 9108133156

Mangaluru

AFFORDABLE PREMIUM Residential Plots now Available in Surathkal, Mangaluru. Fast-developing neighbourhood with excellent connectivity. Flexible Pricing. Limited Availability. Call: 9035297760

AFFORDABLE RESIDENTIAL Plots for Sale in Surathkal, Mangaluru. Well-Connected prime location. Fast-developing area. Attractive pricing. Few plots left. Call: 9845607725 now

House

Bannerghatta Road

BANNERGHATTA ROAD, Vijay_Bank Layout 30x42, Ground floor 2 BHK, 1st floor Duplex 3_BHK_House, 3,00,00,000/- 9980761200

BANNERGHATTA ROAD, Kodichikkana Halli Near Vijay Bank Layout, 20x34_East, 30' Road, Unfinished Building, 1,20,00,000/- 9980761200.

Girinagar

SALE 20X30 S/F Duplex House 3-BHK Giri Nagar Avalahalli New BDA Layout 1.40Crore 9880270482

Jayanagar

SALE 30X40 Jayanagar 9th Block With old House Close_to Metro Station Excellent Location Ct: 9844134068

J P Nagar

SALE 40X60 J.P.Nagar 2nd Phase With old House Ground_Floor 3BHK and 1st_Floor 3BHK Ct: 9844134068

BBMP-A/E-KHATA, 20'X30',G+2 Semi Commercial Building for Sale in JP Nagar 5th Phase, Rs.1.15Cr, Direct:9008716584

PROPERTY CORNER Classifieds

COMMERCIAL BUILDING AVAILABLE FOR RENT
at 80 Feet Road, Padmanabhanagar, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore-85

East and South Corner Building Basement, Ground, First, Second and Third Floor, RCC Total Builtup area 14,000 Sqft. (Each Floor 2750 Sqft.) and 4th Floor 2000 Sqft. ACP Roof Space for Workers and other use.

FACILITIES:
Borewell Water, BWSSB Water, Sanitary, Lift, Generator and Parking Area in Basement.

SUITABLE For:
Institutions, School, Software Office, Two Wheeler Showroom, Car Showroom and any other Commercial Purpose.

Call: 9341227474, 9731219967

FOR SALE
Residential house located in Nagarabhavi 9th Block, situated in a prime and well-connected area. The property features a spacious owner-occupied basement duplex built on a 60×40 BDA site, comprising 4 bedrooms, a kitchen, hall, and TV room.
Interested Buyers May Contact:
9663211969

WANTED COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR RENT
1. MINIMUM BUILT UP AREA IS 15K SQFT
2. STANDALONE BUILDING
3. BESCOM & BWSSB IS MUST
4. ONLY ON MAIN ROAD OF BBMP LIMITS ONLY
5. LIFT IS MUST
CONTACT:
+91 7483233755

BASAVANAGUDI
Prime Property for Sale
No. 13/18, 4th Main,
N.R. Colony, Basavanagudi,
Site Size 44'x60'
Clean Title 'A' & 'E' Khata
G.N. PROPERTIES
98450 44179

3 BHK LUXURY FLATS FOR SALE
DREAMVILLE HOME
PROJECT BY
PROMAX PROPERTIES

Few Flats are Available
Ready to Move in

Amenities
GYM
Waking Track
Club House
Library
Kids Play area
Party Hall

SBI | ICICI Bank | AXIS BANK | HDFC BANK

BBMP APPROVED
RERA APPROVED
PRM/KA/ RERA/1251/446/PR/220622/005013

93530 84848 / 9901834205
promaxdreamvillehome.com
Kothanur, Hennur Main Road Bangalore. 77

Vidyaranyapura

INDEPENDENT 60'X40' BEL 2 Block Prime Location (4 BHK Duplex Semi Furnished) 16000/- S/F:: 9844264852

Flat

Banashankari

KATRIGUPPE GANAPATHI HANUMANTHA RESIDENCY 3 BHK FLATS FOR SALE Rs. 8999/ SFT Contact: 94482-58218/ 96065-03064

Nagarabhavi

FLATS FOR-SALE @ Nagarabhavi Chandra Layout 2 & 3BHK Ready to Move In Good Location Call:9538472420 9845066608

Uttarahalli

4BHK NEW FLATS SALE Ready to`Move, A Khatha, E-swathu, Carparking, Lift, Vaasthu, Maruthi Layout. Rs.1.10.Cr. 9945224058, 6363181276.

SALE LUXURY 3BHK one Floor one apartment 2 carpark 2240sft Uttarahalli BHCS Layout. 9448063661 9611001011

Agricultural Land Converted

Out-Station

HOLALKERE, CHITRADURGA, Sale or Investment 12 Acres Converted Land with Layout Plan Sanction. Good Location: 9342822252/ 9916922211

Commercial Building

J P Nagar

RENT - JP Nagar 9th phase, 5000sft, factory Outlet / Dark Store / Warehouse. 9910022981

Commerical

General

TENANTED PROPERTY for sale in Prestige towers Residency Road, 1948 sqft. Rentals 2 Lakhs /month, Sale Rs. 4.25 Crore (Negotiable) Citilines: 9741417120

Jakkur

JAKKUR MCHES Layout Double Road Commercial Corner Site For Sale Measuring 4700 sft Call: 9341260828

Industrial & Factory

Peenya

SALE/ RENT. KIADB/ KSSIDC. Peenya..Commercial Building/ Industrial Shed and Land available. 'BRUNDANA REALESTATE' 9880434915

Residential/ Commercial

Outer Ring Road

ORR(SUMANAHALLI-LAGGARE BRIDGE) Corner Commercial Site 2,800 Sft. 'A'&'E' Khatha facing ORR at Chowdeshwarinagar Call:9980555558

Srirampura

SALE 30X100 site, 1st cross, North facing, Site, Single owner, 2 mins-metro-mantri mall, 17000/sqft PH 9739732433

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

REAL ESTATE BUYING

Commercial Building

Jayanagar

WANTED COMMERCIAL Building Jayanagar J.P.Nagar R.R.Nagar Budget 10 Crore to 25 Crore Call Aswath: 9845074355

Sites

Multiple Locations

WANTED BDA Sites Anjanapura-Arkavathi, Banashankari 6th stage, Vishweswaraiah, Kempegowda, Dr. Shivaramkaranth Layout. Contact: Sapthagiri "(Opposite BDA Head Office)" 9036360366.

ADMISSION CORNER Classifieds

REGISTRATION FOR ADMISSION OPEN FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

NURSERY to IX Std

PRASIDDHI SCHOOL, (situated amidst lush greenery, in the spacious premises of The Bangalore Palace) imparting quality education and a complete learning experience to enable your child to learn and grow with positive attitude and ethical values.

- A perfect school campus with safe and Green Environment, and zero pollution far away from hustle - bustle.
- Small classes with latest technology and individual attention.
- Preparing the children for the real world by nurturing their critical thinking, hands on learning and social interaction.
- Emphasis on extracurricular activities, Sports, Aerobics, Music, Dance, Arts and Bhagavad Gita classes to learn and retain our cultural values.
- GPS enabled buses, close circuit surveillance throughout the campus.
- Well qualified and trained facilitators who have been associated with the school for more than 15 years.

PRASIDDHI SCHOOL
(Recognised by the Govt. of Karnataka)
Bangalore Palace Compound,
Vasanthnagar, Bangalore - 560 052
email:prasiddhischool1991@gmail.com
Log in to www.prasiddhischool.org FOR ONLINE APPLICATION FORM
www.prasiddhischool.org
Call 99809 99065 /080-23447687

PUBLIC NOTICE

RAJYA VOKKALIGARA SANGHA ®
BANGALORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
(An Autonomous Institution under VTU Belagavi, Approved by AICTE, New-Delhi)
K.R.ROAD, V.V. PURA, BENGALURU – 560 004
Phone: 080-26613237, 26615865 Website: bit-bangalore.edu.in
Ref: BIT/COE/07/2025-2026 **Date:** 16-01-2026

Short Term E-Tender Notice

The Short term Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal from eligible tenderers, registered contractors*/Companies/agencies/ suppliers by the Principal, BIT, Bangalore for the works detailed in the table below under standard tender document procedure formats (The tenderers who have executed similar nature of single work costing not less than 50% of this tender amount during 2021-24 are eligible). Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sl. No	Name of work	Approx. Value of the works (Rs.)	EMD (Rs)	Cost of tender form (GST Included)	Period of completion
01	Supplying, Installing, Testing, Erection and Commissioning Computers.	50 Lakhs	1,00,000/-	2,360/-	30 days
02	Supplying, Installing, Testing, Erection & Commissioning Document Scanners.	15 Lakhs	30,000/-	1,180/-	30 days

Calendar of events:

Tender Documents available in E-Procurement website	From 19-01-2026 up to 31-01-2026 up to 4:00 PM
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	29-01-2026 at 11: 00 AM
Last date of receipt of tenders	31-01-2026 up to 4:00 PM
Opening of Tenders	03-02-2026 (If Possible)

01. Tender documents (Specifications, Term & Conditions) may be obtained from e-procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
02. EMD Paid through E-Procurement in the following modes only, 1. Debit Card, 2. Credit Card, 3. NET Banking, 4. NEFT 5. RTGS only.
03. The Contractors / Agencies / Suppliers shall bear the GST on works contract, any corporation, other Local Authority & royalty due to the Government of Karnataka at the prevailing rates. R.V.Sangha / BIT is not responsible for all taxes with respect to the work.
04. Tenders may be applied to all items or tenders for individual items also accepted.
05. Right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason is reserved with the R.V. Sangha /BIT authority.
06. In the event of any holiday on the notified dates, the next working day will hold good.
07. For any enquiries contact Principal Office at V.V Pura, K.R Road Bengaluru-04 during office hours.

***Company/Authorized Dealers can only apply.**

Principal BIT | Chairman BIT | Chairman Purchase Committee, RVS | Treasurer RVS | Joint Secretary RVS
General Secretary RVS | Vice President RVS | President RVS

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Commercial

FOR RENT: PRIME COMMERCIAL BUILDING, Mariappa Rd, off CMR Main Rd, Kalyan Nagar. Ideal for Clinic, Diagnostic, Tuition, Corporate Office, Banks. GF-300 sqft, FF- 1250 sqft, SF-1250 sqft, TF-500 sqft. Ample parking (4 cars & 25 two-wheelers). 24/7 power & water. Ph: 9845123866, 9880016254. Location: Google Maps -13.021880, 77.638321

WAREHOUSE AVAILABLE for Rent, Built to Suit, near STRR road Hoskote, 50000sft phone 9902599958

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

Banashankari

"WANTED 40X60 site / Old_demolition house North_or East_only Padmanabhnagar, Banashankari 3rd-Stage, Girinagar "Sri.Ganesh Estates" 9845286505"

Vishweshwariah Layout

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30,30x40,40x60 50x80 BDA sites at VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, BSK 6th-stage. Contact: 9844533371/ 9341733480

OFFICE/ SHOP/ ATM Space of 130 sqft. Available in Jayanagar 4th 'T' Block, Contact: 9740785589

Industrial And Factory

RENT, PEENYA, NTTF Circle. 1st and 2nd floor-3250 sqft each, RCC. 3rd floor- 2000 sqft, 65 HP, Lift. 9480305291

House

2 BHK TO-Let, Ground Floor, Semi-Furnished, 3rd Cross, near LOGO's Babusapalya, 3 kms from Manyata. 8861598663.

MORE Classifieds IN MAIN ISSUE

DH DECCAN HERALD
THANKSGIVING

Book your Thanksgiving Advertisement in Deccan Herald for ANNUAL FEAST OF MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP ON 25th January 2026
@ 2100 with GST
(Size 4cmx5cm)
For more Details Contact:
Ph :080 - 45557163 | 164 | 9731810277

More value, more impact

Classifieds

Think Plots.®
Think KNS.

KNS® INFRA

ಕೆ. ಎನ್. ಎಸ್.

RERA No.: PRM/KA/RERA/1250/307/PR/060325/007551

RERA Registered

BENGALURU'S BIGGEST
PLOTTED TOWNSHIP

150+ ACRES
ONE ACRE CLUBHOUSE ZONE

ARTISTIC IMPRESSION

Plots from 1200 to 3000 sq. ft.

15 min from Madavara Metro Stn.

LAUNCHING

KNS®

Samooha

Nelamangala
Off Bengaluru - Tumkur Exp Highway

PLOTS FROM
₹69 lakhs*

Financed by Piramal Finance

Our Banking Partners

Launching on
Jan 31st & Feb 1st

*T&C Apply

CREDAI BANGALORE

Scan for Invite

See it to believe it
Call for a site visit

080 4736 0336

www.knsgroup.in

ADDRESS:
#1125/12, 1st Floor, Service Road, Hampinagar,
2nd Stage, Vijayanagar Bengaluru - 560 104

Classifieds

More value, more impact

From the HEART of our TEA ESTATES to your CUP with Trust

Every Great cup of tea begins here among Fresh High grown Tea leaves

Expertly Processed to preserve strength and Flavour

Carefully packed and delivered to stores near you

Where trust Begins. Choosen by families who values quality

AISHWARYA'S
since 1996

PURE & NATURAL

"Karnataka's"
TASTIEST TEA

HOME MAKERS BEST CHOICE

Kl Special Tea
SHALIMAR GOLD TEA
SHALIMAR GOLD PREMIUM ASSAM TEA THE HOMEMAKERS CHOICE
SHALIMAR GOLD HIGH GROWN ASSAM TEA LEAF PACKED AT AISHWARYA TEA INDUSTRIES
SHALIMAR GOLD Elaichi Tea Home Makers Choice DUST

Pride of Karnataka

TRADE ENQUIRIES
Bangalore : Sales Head
+91 9980 157884
Rest of Karnataka : Satish RSM
+91 97313 03541

SHALIMAR GOLD TEA

MONEY GUARANTEE BACK

Kl Special Tea

Available in amazon

www.aishwaryateaindustries.com

Unique Taste * Best Price * High Quality

aishwaryatea@gmail.com

KAGGALIPURA

Residential PLOTS @ Attractive Prices

Price Just

₹13.2 LAKHS Onwards

Balance can be Paid through 3 installments

HURRY! ONLY FEW PLOTS LEFT

- Spacious, well-planned Plots.
- Permanent Water & Electricity facilities,
- Advanced Infrastructure
- Well-laid network of roads a proper Drainage System.

Fully approved plots, open for booking.

89700 56056

DEVELOPING AREA, THE FUTURE HOTSPOT

WHETHER IT'S BUILDING A HOUSE OR MAKING AN INVESTMENT, THIS IS YOUR PERFECT CHOICE FOR YOUR FUTURE.

"APPROVED LAYOUT"

ALL BASIC AMINITIES PROVIDED